

Annex 3

Governmental Support for CPS Initiatives

Annex 3

Governmental Support for CPS Initiatives

War is ten times more likely to occur where there is discrimination against ethnic groups. And state failure is five times more likely where there is ethnic discrimination.¹

Hence, Canada has a particularly effective basis from which to operate, given its celebrated multi-cultural heritage.

“No State, Government or Institution has a legitimate rationale for its existence apart from the interests of the individual human beings for whose benefit they are supposed to act” Senior Canadian diplomat, Glen Berry, killed in Afghanistan, January 2006²

Making the Shift to Setting up Civil(ian) Peace Services³

A Clear and Present Need – The Impact of Armed Conflict

“Current responses and methods built upon armed violence and militarized responses to conflict are not enough. Indeed, participants recognized that many of our current methods for dealing with conflicts are part of the logic and cycles that contribute to war and violence. There have been 125 armed wars since 1990, with a combined death toll of at least 7 million people, 75% of whom are estimated to be civilians. Of the 34 poor countries farthest from reaching the MDGs, 22 are in or emerging from violent conflict.”⁴

Making the Shift to Prevention and Peacebuilding

“Participants (50 from 30 countries) called upon country governments, civil society and the UN system to work together to shift policy thinking and ‘tool-boxes’ away from violent responses to conflict and towards investment in and support for peacebuilding and the effective prevention of armed conflict through the creation and strengthening of infrastructures and coalitions for peace.”⁵

PEACEFUL CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION FOR PEACE

Peacebuilding and conflict transformation can be effective

“Peacebuilding and conflict transformation can be effective, it was recognized, when joined with the commitment and resources required.”⁶

Making Partnerships Effective

“Inspiringly, numerous examples of how this is being done and steps to support governments and civil society actors in working effectively together were shared, including those of the AMANI Forum (The Great Lakes Parliamentary Forum on Peace), WANEP (West Africa Network for Peacebuilding) in Western Africa, in particular the cooperation with ECOWAS, and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) and civil society-government cooperation on policy development in Europe. Participants called upon governments and civil society to be willing to engage with one another, to learn from each other and to recognize the importance of the contributions each can make. Governments and civil society should work together with the UN, within countries and regionally, to put into place mechanisms and concrete forums for exchanging, dialogue, learning and practical cooperation for conflict prevention, early warning, early response, and peacebuilding. Furthermore, civil society should continue building links with other constituencies, such as regional organisations, parliamentarians for peace and together with like-minded governments, aim for a comprehensive Action Plan on Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Human Security. This Action Plan should be adopted by all stakeholders, including the UN, to build in such a way towards sustainable infrastructures for peace.”⁷

Proposed Government Support for Civilian Peace Services	Current Government Support for CPS	NGO Action vis a vis government support for Civil(ian) Peace Services
AUSTRIA		
Austrian Development Agency (ADA), (within Ministry of Foreign Affairs)		
<p>Draft guidelines for “personelle Entwicklungszusammenarbeit” (personnel in development cooperation... explicitly mention “Civil Peace Service” as one category of projects for which co-funding by the agency is possible.⁸</p> <p><u>Personelle Entwicklungs-zusammenarbeit: Kofinanzierung von Entsendeprogrammen österreichischer Nichtregierungs-organisationen</u> (Personnel in development cooperation: Co-funding of Austrian NGOs’ deployment programs⁹</p>	<p>“The actual implementation of Austrian Development Agency's program will not take place before 2009 due to primarily financial reasons. The process of forming a platform or consortium ... (initiated) by Austrian Peace Services (OeFD), is progressing rapidly nonetheless. A major obstacle in the draft as it is today, in (NGO) eyes, is the required 20% non-public funding in the total budget, which looks rather unrealistic knowing the amount of money peace NGOs (those involved in the platform as well as others) have been able to raise in recent years. Presently (NGOs) are negotiating to cut that down to some achievable figure.”¹⁰</p> <p>“The aim is to deploy, by 2009, around 25+ people in CPS projects around the world, though predominantly in the major target countries of Austria's Development Program.”¹¹</p>	<p>Austrian peace and development NGOs are establishing an umbrella organization to allow them to make use of the proposed ADA “Civil Peace Service” funding. (the required minimum number of 25 deployments per organization, per year, exceeds the capacities of any single existing Austrian peace and development NGO.¹²</p> <p>“A wide range of NGOs that have not previously focused on peace work have become aware of Civil Peace Services as an interesting model of conflict resolution. Several CSOs and platforms beyond those more closely involved (e.g. the ones interested in establishing a consortium for CPS) mention CPS or something similar among the demands in their statements/press releases about the UN Decade for the Culture of Peace.”¹³</p> <p>“Participant organization of the platform include Austrian Peace Services, the Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Guatemala-Initiative, Mexiko-Plattform, Jugend eine Welt, Grenzenlos, Horizont 3000, Pfarre Frastanz, the Institute for Integrative Conflict Transformation, and the Evangelische Diakonie. Slightly less than half of these have a religious background of some sort, though often not much more than being funded by a church.”¹⁴</p>
CANADA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
Nothing to-date for the Civilian Peace Service	Nothing to-date. However, “civil	

Proposed Government Support for Civilian Peace Services	Current Government Support for CPS	NGO Action vis a vis government support for Civil(ian) Peace Services
<p>Canada.</p> <p>However, with CIDA does provide funding to NGO's with peace mandates. See CIDA.</p>	<p>society” is one of a dozen categories of “eligible recipients” of the Glyn Berry Program funding (including: “*Academic institutions, research institutions and think tanks; *Multilateral, intergovernmental, international and regional organizations; *Canadian and foreign non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations; *Foreign governments; *Crown corporations”¹⁵).</p>	
<p>CANADA - Canadian International Development Agency</p>		
<p>None.</p> <p>The current climate of confidentiality mitigates against access to recent policy development documents. However, CIDA's long history of providing arms-length financial support to NGO's and NGI's, its recognition of the work of civil society as fundamental to long term stability, and the links between professionally accredited civilian peace services and democratic development, augurs reasonably well for possible, arms-length funding¹⁶</p>	<p>None.</p> <p>The erstwhile Peacebuilding program was active in supporting peace building initiatives.</p> <p>With DFAIT does provide some funding to NGO's with peace-building mandates. For example, it works very closely with The Canadian Peace-building Coordinating Committee (CPCC) – a “network made up of approximately 60 organizational members and 19 individual members from a variety of sectors including humanitarian assistance, conflict prevention, development cooperation, youth participation and children's rights, international relations, peace operations, women's rights, disarmament, and</p>	<p>Civilian Peace Service Canada (a Canadian NGO) working in co-ordination with existing NGOs and training institutions, private sector and government, is advocating to establish the first Canadian vehicle for professional training and accreditation of qualified civilians (Peace Professionals) to promote and facilitate the non-violent resolution of conflict.¹⁸</p> <p>Department of Peace Initiative (currently an NGO): Proposes a Federal Department of Peace, dedicated exclusively to peace work to provide essential focal point in government for current and projected peacebuilding needs (“consistent with overwhelming desire of citizens”^{19*}).</p> <p>CIDA's history of providing arms-length financial support to NGO's and NGI's, including recognizing the work of civil society as fundamental to long term stability, provides CPSC with a potential platform for accessing CIDA funding (pending the</p>

Proposed Government Support for Civilian Peace Services	Current Government Support for CPS	NGO Action vis a vis government support for Civil(ian) Peace Services
	<p>human rights.”...CPCC is engaged in three main types of activities: (1) Analyzing, sharing and learning from peacebuilding work in specific conflict regions and on specific themes. (2)Facilitating consultation, coordination and collaboration between the non-governmental community and the Canadian government on peacebuilding. (3) Information exchange and networking to encourage support for peacebuilding nationally and internationally.”¹⁷</p>	<p>setting up of DOP):</p>
EUROPE - European Union		
<p>In 1999, the European Parliament adopted a recommendation that the EU Commission initiate a feasibility study on the establishment of a European Civil Peace Corps and, in case of a positive response, to set up a pilot project ²⁰ “The newly emerging conflict situation at the end of the 'Cold War' has been characterised by an increasing number of intra-state conflicts with growing international, political, economic, ecological and military implications. This development has led to an increasing necessity and legitimacy for outside intervention, creating an increasing challenge for international organisations like the European Union (EU) to become involved. However, they face the problem that the manifold character of these conflicts makes them very difficult to understand and to handle. There is a lack of appropriate concepts, structures, methods and instruments (including material basis and</p>	<p>Feasibility Study on the establishment of a European Civil Peace Corps (ECPC) Final Report, presented to the German Parliament, 29 November 2005²²</p> <p>No EU policy change to-date. However, the feasibility study did influence negotiations among EU institutions relating to 2007-2013 EU programming. As a result, the new EU “Stability Instrument (dealing with financial aid for civilian activities in “crisis areas”) has retained elements which focus on civil society, and the opening of a (still informal) “Peacebuilding Partnership”.</p>	<p>European Civilian Peace Corps (ECPS or EN.CPS²³) (34 organisations from 22 countries)²⁴ was officially launched at the Hague Appeal for Peace in May 1999 as a loose network for sharing information, ideas and experiences as well as for discussing issues of common interest.²⁵ Internally, the main purpose of the network is to provide a platform for information and expertise sharing as well as for mutual support in the promotion of Civil Peace Services. Externally, the network aims at promoting Civil Peace Services on a European and international level and bringing issues of nonviolent conflict transformation on the agenda of European policy-makers. ²⁶To this end, EN.CPS is an active member of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)²⁷</p> <p>“Several European countries have created or are in the process of creating Civil Peace Services to improve their own ability to recruit, train and deploy civilian personnel.</p>

Proposed Government Support for Civilian Peace Services	Current Government Support for CPS	NGO Action vis a vis government support for Civil(ian) Peace Services
<p>prepared manpower): it has become very obvious that a sole reliance on the traditional resources associated with diplomatic or military strategies is not adequate. There is a need, therefore, for a comprehensive peace-building approach, including humanitarian aid, development cooperation and conflict resolution. Interventions need to be co-ordinated on an international level; related to the needs of the population in the conflict area; compatible with the civil society and other actors in the field; non-violent and distinct from enforcement actions; flexible and practical; and capable of counteracting violent escalations at an early point.”²¹</p>		<p>GERMANY <u>Civil Peace Service</u> (since 1999) Founded in 1999 as an association between the government and non-governmental organisations as an important tool of German cooperation policy. Subsidized by the central government with 14 million euro annually and managing both development services and peace organisations.</p> <p>SWITZERLAND <u>Peace Team Forum</u> (since 1994) The Foreign Office studies its effectiveness.</p> <p>FRANCE <u>Civilian Peace Service</u> (since 1995) First civil peace service, for ground work, sent to Kosovo in 2001.</p> <p>ITALY <u>White Helmets</u> (since 1999) The study of its viability was financed by the Ministry for Defence.</p> <p>HOLLAND <u>Civil Peace Teams</u> (since 1995) Four week training courses for peace workers, with soldiers and politicians who collaborate on these courses.</p> <p>AUSTRIA <u>Civil Peace Service</u> (since 1993) Financed by the Austrian Home Office, managed by an association of NGOs.</p> <p>NORWAY <u>Norstaff</u> and <u>Nordem</u> (since 1991) Financed by the Norwegian Foreign Office, managed by independent NGOs.</p> <p>UNITED KINGDOM Civilian platform that has not yet received any institutional support”²⁸</p>
EUROPE - Council of the European Union		
<p>Management and Prevention of Conflict (e.g. recommendations for enhancing co-operation with Nongovernmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the framework of EU Civilian Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention, as revised in CivCom on 20 November 2006. 15574/06 DE/xl 2²⁹</p>	<p>Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM)</p>	

Proposed Government Support for Civilian Peace Services	Current Government Support for CPS	NGO Action vis a vis government support for Civil(ian) Peace Services
FRANCE		
<p>The first French law proposal regarding the establishment of a French civil peace service and the promotion of civilian peace intervention.³⁰ ...was presented to the second chamber, on February 12th, 2007, by the Green Candidate, Dominique Voynet and other Green Senators.³¹</p> <p>The Greens’ law proposal/bill³² blends the Greens’ interests (commitment to peace and non-violence, voluntary civil service, alternative to military means in conflict and peace building....) with MAN priorities as outlined in the following column.³³</p> <p>The law proposal, which has not yet been voted on,³⁴ would implement major platforms of Green defence policy: Establishing a voluntary civil service both in France (a solidarity civil service) and abroad (a <u>civil peace service</u>).³⁵ It would promote civilian peace intervention in peacebuilding and conflict management (establishment of a particular fund and a peace volunteer contract).³⁶</p>		<p>MAN (Mouvement pour une Alternative Non-violente)³⁷</p> <p>Civilian peace Intervention (CPI) Committee</p> <p>Has worked on drafting law proposal / bill at request of French Green party in the frame of the presidential elections.³⁸</p> <p>The Draft bill includes MAN priorities: promoting civilian peace intervention, establishing a civil peace service, and financial support for peace and non-violence oriented NGO’s and training).³⁹</p> <p>An advocacy document regarding awareness raising on civilian peace intervention to be issued soon.⁴⁰</p>
GERMANY - Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
<p>The German political debate around CPS significantly exceeds that in any other country.</p> <p>The basic government document is its Action Plan of 2004⁴¹</p>	<p>Civil Peace Services exist. German Government funding for CPS exceeds that of any other country. Substantial financial support flows to CPS projects through the German Development Ministry.</p>	<p>A German CPS ngo perspective: “The implementation of the governmental Action Plan of 2004 on Civilian Crisis Management has received little attention. Instead, the government staged two additional military missions (DR Congo, Lebanon) and has made little use of the German EU presidency for advancing peacebuilding at EU level.”⁴²</p>
GERMANY - Inter-Ministerial		
<p>Inter-ministerial and political support are</p>		

Proposed Government Support for Civilian Peace Services	Current Government Support for CPS	NGO Action vis a vis government support for Civil(ian) Peace Services
evidenced through its foreign policy and other policy instruments. ⁴³		
GERMANY - German Development Ministry		
And, of course, there is more to be done. Additional support is planned but slow in materializing.	German Government funding for CPS projects (through the Development Ministry) has increased from € 14,5 Mio in 2006 to € 17 Mio in 2007 for all implementing organizations. ForumZFD receives approximately 9 % of these funds. ⁴⁴	A German CPS NGO perspective: “The official recognition of forumZFD implies the political message that CPS is no longer only a funding line or a transitional program, but has been adopted as special task among the definite instruments of development cooperation. Nevertheless, overall political developments under the “red-black” (as opposed to “green”) Grand Coalition have been rather slow in the field of peacebuilding.”
GERMANY - German Development Service Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (DED)		
<p>DED promotes understanding for the situation of people in developing countries among the German public and draws attention to questions concerning the common interests and problems of the One World⁴⁵</p> <p>DED has no projects of its own, but reacts at the request of partner organizations in the host countries. The projects which DED supports in the developing countries are organized according to fields of cooperation: training in technical skills and trades, agriculture, forestry and natural resources management, health, general education, building and housing development, community development, small businesses, management and administration.⁴⁶</p>	<p>Member of Consortium (German) Civil Peace Service</p> <p>DED, a <i>Semi-governmental</i> organization, places “professionally experienced and socially committed specialists at the disposal of developing countries⁴⁷ supports local organizations and self-help initiatives by counselling, financing small programmes and promoting local specialists⁴⁸</p>	<p>The German Development Service is one of the leading European development services for personnel cooperation. It was founded in 1963: since then more than 15 000 development workers have committed themselves to improve the living conditions of people in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Almost 1 000 development workers are currently working in approximately 40 countries.⁴⁹</p> <p>DED maintains offices in the host countries, generally in the capital. They are run by field directors who represent the DED vis-à-vis local partners and supervise DED programmes in these countries.⁵⁰</p> <p>recruits German development workers wishing to serve as United Nations Volunteers (UNV)⁵¹</p> <p>DED enjoys semi-governmental status.</p> <p>DED has the legal form of a non-profit-making, limited liability company owned jointly by the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the</p>

Proposed Government Support for Civilian Peace Services	Current Government Support for CPS	NGO Action vis a vis government support for Civil(ian) Peace Services
		<p>Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the working group "Learning and Helping Overseas", a registered association. DED is financed by the federal budget.</p> <p>It was founded in 1963: since then more than 15 000 development workers have committed themselves to improving the living conditions of people in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Almost 1 000 development workers are currently working in approximately 40 countries.⁵²</p> <p>DED's supreme decision-making body is the Shareholders' Meeting. The latter appoints the Administrative Council whose members include, apart from the Federal Government and the working group "Learning and Helping Overseas", representatives of political parties and public life, the development workers and permanent staff. The Administrative Council determines the overall guidelines and principles for the work of DED. DED's management is the supreme executive organ⁵³</p>
GPPAC - Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict		
<p>Netherlands 50 participants from 30 countries, made up of representatives of civil society organizations worldwide, governments and foundations, met for a strategy meeting on strengthening cooperation between governments, foundations and civil society in peacebuilding.)</p> <p>Participants called upon country governments, civil society and the UN system to work together to shift policy thinking and 'tool-boxes' away from violent responses to conflict</p>	<p>Strengthening Cooperation for Peace Conference, (October 12 – 13, 2006, The Hague).</p> <p>The meeting was organised by the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed conflict (GPPAC), and chaired by Kai Brand-Jacobsen, Director, PATRIR Romanian Peace Institute.</p> <p>N.b. There are questions about the</p>	<p>Peace-building and conflict transformation can be effective ...when joined with the commitment and resources required.</p> <p>Participants from governments and civil society underscored the need for greater research, collaboration, peace education, training, and strengthening practical cooperation and public awareness raising on peace and conflict resolution.</p> <p>The vision of a shared relationship and future beyond violence and the leadership and moral</p>

Proposed Government Support for Civilian Peace Services	Current Government Support for CPS	NGO Action vis a vis government support for Civil(ian) Peace Services
<p>and towards investment in and support for peacebuilding and the effective prevention of armed conflict through creation and strengthening of infrastructures and coalitions for peace. In this, the important and complementary roles of both government and civil society were recognized.</p>	<p>current momentum of GPPAC</p>	<p>imagination for peace – built upon human security and the fundamental affirmation and respect for human rights, and transcending the politics of fear, war and terror – are vital to make the transition towards finding effective ways of dealing with conflicts.</p>
<p>ITALY Note: See Endnote for detail re: Italy’s civil vs military service options⁵⁴</p>		
<p>The Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is considering the possibility to start three pilot projects in conflicts areas in the second half of 2007. For that reason the CSOs and NGOs gathered at the Table were requested to elaborate some pilot projects and to present them to the MFA. During a recent meeting of the contact group with the Ministry representatives, the implementation of the pilots projects and possible future development were discussed further.</p> <p>For the institutional development and the feasibility study the German CPS experience is considered as an interesting and possible model for Italy, even if with some adjustment to adapt it to the Italian context and experiences; the existing models and recent developments in other European states are also of interest for the Italian CSOs/NGOs and MFA.⁵⁵</p>	<p>The NGO-proposed idea of a Civil Peace Corps composed of civilians with expertise in peacebuilding and conflict work met the interest of the Vice Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), who organized a first meeting with different NGOs and CSOs in Rome to discuss this issue. After that, an official Table of discussion on “Civilian Intervention in conflict Areas” was constituted and convened the 21st March 2007. Subsequently, The Vice Minister commissioned a feasibility study on an Italian Civil Peace Corps by a professor at the Padua University that (in April 2007) started working on the study and consulted the CSOs with expertise on conflict work and interest in civil peace corps. In addition, Italy supports individual’s choice of civil vs military service</p>	<p>In September 2006 the participation of Italy in the new UNIFIL military mission in Lebanon raised a discussion on the role and contribution of civilians’ intervention in conflict areas. Many CSOs supported the demand to intervene in this situation with a Civil Peace Corps composed of civilians with expertise in peacebuilding and conflict work, and not only with a UN Mission composed almost exclusively of military forces.</p> <p>The Table “Civilian Intervention in Conflict Areas”⁵⁶ is composed of around 25 CSOs and NGOs working on peacebuilding and civilian intervention...Member organizations have varied experience, including specific projects in different conflict areas.⁵⁷</p>
<p>United Kingdom - Government’s Department for International Development (DFID)</p>		
<p>Preventing Violent Conflict, DFID Policy</p>		<p>Insert from “country table”</p>

Proposed Government Support for Civilian Peace Services	Current Government Support for CPS	NGO Action vis a vis government support for Civil(ian) Peace Services
<p>Release, 2006⁵⁸ seeks to show how DFID understands and responds to conflict prevention across the breadth of its work, including Making “all our development work conflict-sensitive”⁵⁹.</p> <p>However, there is no specific mention of support to a civilian peace service.</p>		
UN		

Endnotes – Annex 3:

¹ DFID, from “State Failure Task Force Report: Phase III Findings, 2000”, in Preventing Violent Conflict, DFID Policy Release, 2006, <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/preventing-conflict.pdf>

² <http://geo.international.gc.ca/cip-pic/cip-pic/aboutthegbp-en.aspx>

³ The subsequent quotes are taken from Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Report from Chair, Strategy Meeting on “Strengthening Cooperation for Peace Conference”, October 12 – 13, 2006, The Hague, Netherlands

⁴ Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Report from Chair, Strategy Meeting on “Strengthening Cooperation for Peace Conference”, October 12 – 13, 2006, The Hague, Netherlands

⁵ Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Report from Chair, Strategy Meeting on “Strengthening Cooperation for Peace Conference”, October 12 – 13, 2006, The Hague, Netherlands

⁶ Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Report from Chair, Strategy Meeting on “Strengthening Cooperation for Peace Conference”, October 12 – 13, 2006, The Hague, Netherlands

⁷ Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Report from Chair, Strategy Meeting on “Strengthening Cooperation for Peace Conference”, October 12 – 13, 2006, The Hague, Netherlands

⁸ Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

⁹ *draft; on demand from* Jakob.steixner@oefd.at

¹⁰ Steixner, Jacob, Austrian Peace Services, e-mail, June 29, 2007

¹¹ Steixner, Jacob, Austrian Peace Services, e-mail, June 29, 2007

¹² Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

¹³ Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

¹⁴ Steixner, Jacob, Austrian Peace Services, e-mail, June 29, 2007

¹⁵ Human Security Policy Division (GHS), Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), Glyn Berry Program for Peace and Security, at DFAIT web site: http://geo.international.gc.ca/cip-pic/cip-pic/gbpfunding-en.aspx?lang_update=1. (August 2007)

¹⁶ Insert CIDA web page info on Partnership Branch overview and history

¹⁷ <http://www.peacebuild.ca/about/?language=english>

¹⁸ With competency-based accreditation, predicated on assessment for “Core Values” critical for professional peace work (including empathy, humility, personal maturity, sound judgment, sincerity, strong desire for social justice and peace for all, willingness to learn) and training in “Key competencies” (including Communication, conciliation, conflict Analysis, facilitation, mediation, negotiation, operational planning, peace building, personal security, strategic thinking, teamwork), from: McNaughton, Ross D., CPSc Competency Paper, drafted with CPSc (May 2007).

¹⁹ To see the “Proposal for a Federal Department of Peace: Executive Summary”, prepared by Drs. Saul Arbess and Bill Bhaneja for the Working Group for a Federal Department of Peace in November 2005, see: http://www.departmentofpeace.ca/executive_summary.php

²⁰ Document of the EP A4-0047/99, <http://www.futureofeuropa.parlament.gv.at/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A4-1999-0047&language=HU&mode=XML>, 28 January, 1999. From the EU (EP A4-0047/99)document: “The newly emerging conflict situation at the end of the ‘Cold War’ has been characterised by an increasing number of intra-state conflicts with growing international, political, economic, ecological and military implications. This development has led to an increasing necessity and legitimacy for outside intervention, creating an increasing challenge for international organisations like the European Union (EU) to become involved. However, they face the problem that the manifold character of these conflicts makes them very difficult to understand and to handle. There is a lack of appropriate concepts, structures, methods and instruments (including material basis and prepared manpower): it has become very obvious that a sole reliance on the traditional resources associated with diplomatic or military strategies is not adequate. There is a need, therefore, for a comprehensive peace-building approach, including humanitarian aid, development cooperation and conflict resolution. Interventions need to be co-ordinated on an international level; related to the needs of the population in the conflict area; compatible with the civil society and other actors in the field; non-violent and distinct from enforcement actions; flexible and practical; and capable of counteracting violent escalations at an early point. The ‘Bourlanges/Martin’ report, adopted by the European Parliament on 17 May 1995 in its plenary session in Strasbourg, recognised for the first time this need by stating that ‘a first step towards a contribution to conflict prevention could be the establishment of a European Civil Peace Corps (including conscientious objectors) with training of monitors, mediators and specialists in conflict resolution’. Several times since then, the European Parliament confirmed this statement, for the last time in its latest report on the implementation of the CFSP. Since that time the following conceptualisation of a European Civilian Peace Corps has been developed. **Goals** The first priority of an ECPC will be conflict transformation of human-made crises, e.g., the prevention of violent conflict escalation and contribution towards conflict de-escalation. In any case, the ECPC’s tasks will be exclusively **civilian** in nature. Special emphasis will be given to conflict prevention, because it is more humane and less costly in comparison with post-conflict reconstruction. However, the Corps might also take up humanitarian tasks following natural disasters. ECPC involvement should not be confined to a certain area (i.e. Europe). The ECPC will rely on a holistic approach, including, inter alia, political and economic efforts, and the enhancement of political participation and of the economic context of operations. Since conflict transformation efforts have to address all levels of protracted conflicts, the tasks of ECPC will be multifunctional. Concrete examples of ECPC’s peace-building activities are mediation and confidence building among the conflict parties; humanitarian assistance (including food aid, water and sanitation, and health); reintegration (including disarming and demobilisation of former combatants and the support of displaced persons, refugees and other vulnerable groups); rehabilitation and reconstruction; stabilisation of economic structures (including the establishment of economic linkages); monitoring and improving the human rights situation and empowerment for political participation (including election monitoring and assistance); interim administration to facilitate shortterm stability; information and the establishment of educational structures and programmes designed to eliminate prejudices and enemy images; and campaigns informing and educating people about the peace-building activities at hand. Nothing of this kind can be imposed directly on the parties, however, through political support from the outside, their cooperation can be facilitated. Success in fulfilling these tasks will depend on the degree to which the ECPC will be able to improve the relationship between humanitarian aid, confidence building and economic cooperation. None of these areas can be successfully supported without relating them to the others; e.g., the success of humanitarian aid and reconstruction after a war depends on the degree of confidence building among the conflict parties; material reconstruction, therefore has the task of involving the conflict parties in joint projects. The ECPC is meant to be an official body, set up by the EU and functioning under the auspices of the EU.”

²¹ See footnote 17 for the complete narrative, from European Parliament document: EP A4-0047/99,

<http://www.futureofeuropa.parlament.gv.at/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A4-1999-0047&language=HU&mode=XML>, 28 January, 1999. From the EU (EP A4-0047/99)document:

²² Pierre Robert (Channel Research), Knud Vilby (Cowi), Luca Aiolfi (B&S Europe)
Ralf Otto (Channel Research), Feasibility Study on the establishment of a European
Civil Peace Corps (ECPC), Final Report, 29 November 2005, B&S, 19 Rue de l'Église St. Etienne 1380 Ohain Belgium
Tel +32 2 633 65 29 Fax +32 2 633 30 92, www.channelresearch.com info@channelresearch.com, VAT No 864 560 703

²³ www/EN.CPS,

²⁴ ("Austria, Belarus, Catalonia, Chechnya, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Norway, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.", quoted in [http://www.en-cps.org/European and EU advocacy](http://www.en-cps.org/European_and_EU_advocacy), proSCP@forcesdepaunonviolentes.org)

²⁵ For list of members, see: http://www.en-cps.org/Network_Members,

²⁶ www/EN.CPS

²⁷ <http://www.eplo.org/>,

²⁸ [http://www.en-cps.org/European and EU advocacy](http://www.en-cps.org/European_and_EU_advocacy), proSCP@forcesdepaunonviolentes.org

²⁹ UNION NOTE from : Presidency to : Delegations Subject : Recommendations for Enhancing Co-operation with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the Framework of EU Civilian Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention²⁹ Delegations will find attached the recommendations for enhancing co-operation with Nongovernmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the framework of EU Civilian Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention, as revised in CivCom on 20 November 2006. 15574/06 DE/xl 2 DG E IX EN

³⁰ Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

³¹ Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

³² Weblink to the law proposal (in french): <http://www.senat.fr/leg/pp106-224.html>

³³ Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

³⁴ Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

³⁵ Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

³⁶ Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

³⁷ Durant toutes les années 60 et au début de la décennies suivante, de multiples groupes locaux d'action non-violente se constituent un peu partout en France, mobilisés autour du thème de la guerre d'Algérie puis sur d'autres terrains de lutte tels que l'objection de conscience, le Chili...³⁷ : on parle alors des GRANV (Groupes de Recherche et d'Action Non-Violente). Au début des années 70, la majorité des GRANV envisage un regroupement dans **une** fédération de groupes non-violents afin de dépasser leur isolement et d'accroître leur force et leur coopération. Ces groupes se dotent alors du Secrétariat de Coordination à l'Action Non-violente (SCAN). Les groupes adhérents au SCAN rédigent le texte d'un Manifeste **pour une Alternative** Non-Violente qui est adopté en 1973. Ce texte jette les bases d'un regroupement sur **une** base politique en référence explicite au socialisme autogestionnaire. L'année suivante, sur le constat de l'échec du SCAN, **une** grande majorité des GRANV se joint **pour** fonder le **Mouvement pour une Alternative** Non-violente (MAN), sur les bases du manifeste. Ces groupes se fédèrent donc au sein du MAN, constitué en loi 1901, tout en gardant cependant **une** grande autonomie d'initiative et de décision. **Une** fois les modalités de fonctionnement décidées et mises en place, **une** volonté d'approfondir les bases communes du **mouvement** amène les membres du Man à rédiger un Texte d'Orientation politique (TOP) qui est définitivement adopté en 1976, et qui a

pour titre Pour le socialisme autogestionnaire : une non-violence politique. Cette brochure d'une centaine de pages est diffusée à plus de 20 000 exemplaires. Elle développe l'idée d'une lutte non-violente contre une situation de violence structurelle provoquée par l'extension généralisée du mode de production capitaliste, au profit de la construction d'un socialisme autogestionnaire, alternative au capitalisme libéral comme au socialisme étatique de type soviétique. Dans le cadre de la lutte contre la militarisation de la société, le MAN propose une stratégie de transarmement consistant à développer une Défense Populaire Non-Violente (DPNV). Avec ce texte d'orientation politique, la dynamique de coopération et de cohérence entre les différents groupes du MAN, est parachevée. Une aventure politique originale peut alors commencer. <http://www.irenees.net/fiches/fiche-acteurs-314.html>

³⁸ Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

³⁹ Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

⁴⁰ Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

⁴¹ http://www.auswaertigesamt.de/www/en/aussenpolitik/friedenspolitik/ziv_km/aktionsplan.html

⁴² Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

⁴³ Inter-ministerial action plan for „Civilian Crisis Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Post-Conflict Peace-Building“, German Government's Programme of Action 2015 ..(Germany's contribution to halving extreme poverty worldwide), Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Sector strategy for crisis prevention, conflict transformation and peace-building in German development cooperation „Strategy for Peace-building“, June 2005, <http://www.bmz.de>

⁴⁴ Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

⁴⁵ www.ded.de

⁴⁶ www.ded.de

⁴⁷ www.ded.de

⁴⁸ www.ded.de

⁴⁹ www.ded.de

⁵⁰ www.ded.de

⁵¹ www.ded.de

⁵² www.ded.de

⁵³ www.ded.de

⁵⁴ **An Italian Take: White Helmets in Italy: the Law 230/98**⁵⁴ Martinelli, Marta: “Developing a Civilian Peace Corps: Does Italy Offer a Model for the EU?” www.peacestudiesjournal.org.uk/docs/DevelopingCivilianPeaceCorpsDevelopmentsinEurope.pdf

1998 was a particularly significant year for the Italian debate over the issue of civilian peace corps. In fact, in July that year a law on conscientious objection was approved (230/98) which included provisions on the research and implementation of nonviolent civilian defence. The law dictated that conscientious objectors be employed in operations out of the national territory in four specific circumstances: 1) the civil service could be carried out in a country different from Italy (in organisations that would avail themselves of the work of conscientious objectors); 2) the service could be carried out in countries where Italy operated development aid projects; 3) the service could be carried out in humanitarian missions even where Italian contingents were not engaged; 4) the service could be carried out in operations where Italian personnel were employed²⁶. The provision contained three novel elements: 1) the presence of Italian troops was no longer a condition; 2) conscientious objectors could be associated with governmental projects (whilst before the government had refused any direct involvement with and responsibility for their deployment); 3) the prospected use of the objectors with non-violent civilian interposition tasks in programs designed and implemented by the National Bureau for Civil Service and the Department for Civil Protection. The Italian Parliament also approved a recommendation for setting up a consultative body to co-operate with all the main peace research institutes in Italy and Europe.

Furthermore, the recommendation included reference to a “Research Institute for Non Violent Civil Defence” and support for the institution of a European Civil Peace Corps to be employed in conflict prevention tasks. Recognising that civilian volunteers working in humanitarian contingencies can provide concrete help, the Parliament expressed the belief that they also retain a symbolic character and can help establish appropriate conditions for dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution. The Parliament recommended the establishment of an Italian contingent of White Helmets to be made available to the UN and requested the Italian Government to conduct a feasibility study of the project²⁷. Italy has thus formally agreed to constitute a contingent of White Helmets in collaboration with non-governmental organisations and voluntary organisations. The White Helmets’ role would consist of supporting the defence and promotion of human rights and in helping to establish conditions conducive to dialogue between parties in conflict. The adopted working methods would privilege the creation and mobilisation of local capacities, as well as support for local non-governmental organisations and for the establishment of new peace constituencies²⁸. The law is well embedded in the provisions of Article 11 of the Italian Constitution

which states that “Italy rejects war as a means of offence to other peoples’ freedom and a means for the resolution of international disputes; it consents, in conditions of reciprocity with other states, to the limitations to its sovereignty that are necessary for the establishment of a system that ensures peace and justice amongst Nations; it supports and favours international organisations created to this end”. The idea of the White Helmets is thus deeply rooted in the Italian juridical system and becomes one of the key routes through which the norm finds concrete application²⁹.

Reform of the Armed Forces and Consequences for the White Helmets Project

Obligatory conscription in Italy was abolished by a law approved on 2nd November 2000 (n. 331/00). A year later, a reform of the Italian armed forces was introduced that allows the possibility of choosing civil as an alternative to military service, in view of the institution of a completely professional army and the abolition of obligatory conscription in 2006. Also new was the fact that civil service is open to women as well as men³⁰. Significantly, the reform favours an increased specialization and efficiency of the volunteers; the service is paid (433 Euros a month) and lasts 12 months and can contribute to the obtainment of university credits and grades for the national competitive exams for careers in the public sector³¹. The birth of the civil service on a voluntary basis (and no longer as part of the activities carried out by conscientious objectors who were obliged to make the choice between military

²⁸ Marta Martinelli, “Volontari di Pace in Zone di Guerra: Contraddizioni e Prospettive”, in: Fondazione Venezia per la Ricerca sulla Pace, *Annuario della pace. Italia /Maggio 2000 – Giugno 2001*, Trieste: Asterios Editore, 2001, p. 269.

²⁹ Francesco Tullio, cit., p. 101-102.

³⁰ La Stampa, “Servizio civile: arruolate anche le donne”, 14 Febbraio 2001.

³¹ Il Messaggero, “Servizio civile anche per le donne”, 14 Febbraio 2001.

13

service and the civil service) will give rise to a pool of personnel to employ nationally - for instance in defence of the cultural heritage, assisting the poor, the ill and weak sections of the population - and internationally, by facilitating the establishment of an Italian contingent of White Helmets³². Importantly, the law contains provisions for a month of training offered to all volunteers, although it has not been specified who should provide such training. A National Agency for Civil Service should be set up within the Presidency of the Council of Ministers to liaise with national and international institutions, to decide and monitor the work of regional offices and to monitor the training offered before specific missions. Furthermore, the Agency would be charged with research activities pertaining the civil service. Whilst the law is quite well developed, and in spite of its well intended provisions, the National Agency for the Volunteer Civil Service has yet to be established. Contrary to the growing interest in the service by different sectors of civil society, the National

Conference of Organisations for Civil Service notes a reduced interest of the national institutions in the future of the White Helmets project. Nevertheless, the shortcomings evident at the official level are balanced by the wealth of experience and expertise developed by Italian NGOs. It is to these that next section will refer to.

Italian volunteers in war zones: some experiences³³

With the unfolding of events in Former Yugoslavia, a significant number of Italian volunteers, including conscientious objectors, left in order to offer support to humanitarian operations under way in that area³⁴. The association Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII³⁵ initiated, in 1992, a project called Operation Dove – Civil Peace Corps. The Operation included various projects implemented in different areas with a common methodology consisting in living in close contact with local populations and

³² La Repubblica, “Porte aperte alle donne, cambia il servizio civile”, 14 Febbraio 2001. ³³ The information provided was published in an article by the author entitled “Volontari di Pace in Zone di Guerra: Contraddizioni e Prospettive”, in: Fondazione Venezia per la Ricerca sulla Pace, *Annuario della pace. Italia / maggio 2000 – giugno 2001*, Trieste, Asterios Editore, 2001, pp. 263-277.

34 See: Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, *Progetto Caschi Bianchi: Obiettori di Coscienza in Servizio Civile a fini umanitari, tutela dei diritti umani, prevenzione dei conflitti, costruzione della pace, sostegno alle popolazioni vulnerabili e povere*, www.peacelink.it/amici/apg23/dossier/Progetto_2000.htm

35 The Association is a not-for-profit ecclesiastical organisation operating in Italy and internationally with various projects providing care for people affected by HIV, drugs, and prostitution. 14

looking for all forms of co-operation with the local civil society³⁶. The operation took place in Croatia, Bosnia and later on, in Kosovo. Here the volunteers' presence worked as a deterrent against the violation of human rights by accompanying people at risk (following the operational model offered by Peace Brigades International). As volunteers engaged in the same activities with representatives from both the Serb and Kosovo communities, they helped to restore communication links between them³⁷. Amongst the tasks performed by the volunteers were³⁸: Presence alongside the affected populations sharing their conflict experiences; support for humanitarian operations in collaboration with various agencies and facilitation of information exchange between such agencies and the local population; support to local peace constituencies; observation, monitoring and reporting on human rights conditions as well as information and education activities aimed at institutions charged with the protection of human rights; reconciliation work with the local population; Initiation of a process of inter-religious dialogue; Facilitation of dialogue processes between cultural, youth and family associations of both ethnic groups; helping the return of internally displaced people and refugees and the identification of divided families. The White Berets are another Italian not-for-profit organisation with the expressed intention of acting as an instrument of peace with non-military means³⁹. It aims at the prevention of conflict escalation through physical interposition and "people's diplomacy". It is organised in small groups of 20 people (all volunteers) and places its emphasis on impartially supporting groups with different ethnic, religious and cultural affiliations and helping them to establish/maintain contacts with each other. Amongst its most innovative projects was the opening of Peace Embassies in Pristina (1995) and Belgrade (1999). Pacifists from the Former Yugoslavia wrote to their "colleagues" in other countries and suggested that instead of sending large groups of people that were not committed to spending a long time in the area, they could send smaller groups who were willing to stay longer. The "embassies" contacted all nongovernmental organisations or interested associations and encouraged them to create

³⁶ The Association has worked in: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Croatia, Albania, Russian Federation, India, Bangladesh, Mexico, Kosovo, East Timor and Congo.

³⁷ Mauro Cereghini, "Operazione Colomba", in *Limes*, cit. p 120 e 121.

³⁸ Listed on: www.peacelink.it/amici/apg23/cb/dossier/Progetto_CB_2000.htm

³⁹ Statutes of the Association available at:

www.peacelink.it/users/berrettibianchi/statutoberrettibianchi.htm

15

mixed commissions to work on issues of peace and solidarity. Apart from offering support in relief activities, the innovation of these embassies consisted in their stated aim of maintaining open channels of communication between the populations affected by violence; offering impartial information on the events; and devising proposals for mediation on relevant issues. A different example, more relevant to the area of emergency relief, is represented by the Consorzio Italiano di Solidarietà which has also been operating in the Former Yugoslavia. It has successfully co-operated with the World Food Program to send hundreds of tons of food there. Thanks to UNICEF, volunteers from the Consorzio have established a project in Tuzla providing food for children aged 0-5, and in Nis they have established a program of social integration for the refugees. The Consorzio has effectively managed to network with and co-ordinate various organisations - international and national (Italian), governmental (including military) and nongovernmental - in pursuit of its objectives. The examples above are not meant to portray all the experiences or complexities of the voluntary sector in Italy, but they do illustrate the operational potential of these civil initiatives. Furthermore, they show how NGOs can complement the work of governmental organisations particularly through their attention to the micro-aspects of conflict prevention and resolution activities, as opposed to the focus on macro-aspects (social, economic and political) privileged by governmental initiatives.

Conclusion

On 20 April 2001 the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society organised a conference in Brussels entitled "EU Civilian Crisis Management Capability". In the subsequent report, Renata Dwan, of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), notes that there is no clear

concept of what civilian crisis management is at the European level. Interestingly, she points out that the concept is defined more by negation, i.e. as non-military strategies, 16

processes, and tools than in any positive articulation of the term.⁴⁰ Since the EU first began to address the issue of developing a crisis management capability, discussions have focused primarily on the establishment of a common Rapid Reaction Force. However, there has also been a keen interest, especially in Finland and Sweden, to address the issue of a civilian crisis management capacity alongside the military one. The 1999 European Summit in Helsinki agreed that a “non-military crisis management mechanism will be established to co-ordinate and make more effective the various civilian means and resources, in parallel with the military ones, at the disposal of the Union and the Member States”. In June 2000, the European Summit in Feira identified four priority areas in which the EU would strengthen its capabilities to support field operations led by the OSCE, UN or the EU itself: Policing, the Rule of Law, Civil Administration and Civil Protection. By the Gothenburg Summit in 2001 the European Council had agreed concrete targets for Member States to contribute to these areas. Disappointingly, during the Laeken Summit Meeting in December 2001, the European Council declaration regarding civilian aspects of crisis management showed how the main emphasis remained on the development of Police capabilities whilst other areas, although considered priority areas, are left comparatively behind.⁴¹ With the emphasis currently placed on the achievement of the police targets set out at Feira, one has to wonder if the primary concern of the EU is the restoration of legal order in a country affected by conflict. Whilst this would be a laudable result it is very far from implementing the complex spectrum of the aspects entailed in the term “Civil Defence”. Furthermore, many observers have stated that the EU is uniquely placed to play a civilian role in crisis management. It is undeniably so, but we have to ask if this is a reflection of its structures and policies, or of an accurate understanding of crisis needs and the tools required to respond to them. It is my impression that the emphasis currently placed on the four priority areas agreed in Feira will postpone discussion on the theoretical underpinnings of civilian peace forces as well as on the modalities to contribute national volunteers to a European Civil Peace Corps more in line with the description of the White Helmets made by the UN (as described above).

⁴⁰ Renata Dwan, “Themes to be Dealt With and Challenges to be Met”, in: Frida Blom, EU Civilian Crisis Management Capability, Conference Report, Stockholm: Swedish Peace and Arbitration society, June 2001, p. 8.

⁴¹ See: Catriona Gourlay, “The Spanish Presidency Agenda for Conflict Prevention and Civilian Crisis Management”; and Jamie Woodbridge “The Laeken Summit and ESDP: Much Ado about Nothing”, in European Security Review, No. 10, January 2002.

17

As the situation stands, it seems to me that the EU is “uniquely placed to play a civilian role in crisis management” simply because it is a civilian organisation. The abandonment of the debate over the institution of a European Civil Peace Corps shows that the Union is good at setting numerical targets and deadlines, but is struggling to acquire visible signs of power, and is still fighting with a superficial understanding of the programmatic implications of the term “civilian crisis management”. Where the EU engages in support of NGO initiatives in this field or in university training programs (such as in Austria and Italy), it does so in a sort of “subcontracting” mode, rather than with the aim of developing and adopting a multifaceted European civil response to man-made crises⁴².

In spite of the lack of real progress at the supra-national level⁴³, some achievements are evident at the national level where the debate over Civilian Peace Corps and services seems to be more varied and inclusive of different sectors of civil society. The law instituting the national peace service in Italy is the direct result of the national debate over such issues. It presents many innovative aspects and could be a step towards the creation of a contingent of Italian White Helmets to be made available to the EU (if it decides to avail itself of it) and the UN⁴⁴. Although the law was only approved in 2001 - making it difficult to make an assessment of the real impact of its implementation (the call for a 1095 volunteers to recruit for next year, has only been made in the month of March 2002) - Italy represents an useful example for other countries. In fact, compared with other EU countries, it has set up an official process to develop a body of Civilian Peace Corps – White Helmets as an alternative to military service. By contrast, other national efforts have been limited to supporting

civil society initiatives, creating rosters of civilians or training specific pools of 42 In this light I also consider the large sums of money made available by the EU for civilian crisis management and conflict prevention programmes. ⁴³ Opinions on this issue differ. For instance, Wallis and Junge state that “...governments and EU institutions are opened to new ideas and suggestions from NGOs for how they should act in conflict situations as they have never been before”. Tim Wallis and Mareike Junge, “Civilian Peace Services in Europe – An Overview”, paper presented at the 2nd Peaceworkers Seminar, 9 May 2001. Available at:

www.peaceworkers.fsnet.co.uk ⁴⁴ To date, a National Agency does not yet exist and the co-ordination of civilian volunteers is left to

the Agency for Civil Protection. This reflects a limited understanding of the needs of a civilian peace corps, especially one that could be made available to international institutions. Furthermore, the national debate about the character and organisation of a civil peace corps is receiving less attention by

Italian institutions than was originally hoped for. 18 experts, without moving towards developing a national corps of civilians to be employed also in state-led initiatives⁴⁵. The Italian initiative is also fully consistent with the above mentioned UN Document (see p.6) where it recommends the institutionalisation of national volunteer corps to be made available to the UN for them to be employed in various field operations. Italy, at the national level, has taken a clear interest in developing the operationalisation of a civil peace corps. It would thus be well placed to take a lead at the EU level in putting the issue on the agenda. This would re-invigorate the debate on the establishment of a European civil peace corps. For its part, the European Union is in a good position to encourage national processes towards the establishment of such Peace Corps. It is also uniquely placed to support them and help their co-ordination within the framework of a Common Foreign and Security Policy. At present, however, the will to develop such European Civil Peace Corps seems to be painfully absent. It would seem time to at least revive the EP proposal for a ‘feasibility study’ that had as its objective the support of the UN and the establishment of an effective collaboration between international, regional and national initiatives on this issue. ⁴⁵ Most notably in Germany, where the government pledges large sums of money each year for the Civilian Peace Service (CPS) but actually only employs senior professionals. These only have to undergo a four-month training course before being sent on peace-building operations.

⁵⁵ Add reference from Kai email June 12 2007 when wider circulation permitted

⁵⁶ www.nonviolentpeaceforce.it

⁵⁷

⁵⁸ “Summary: The costs of violent conflict are enormous. It is not only the obvious and immediate toll on lives and property. Development is a victim too. During the 1990s, half of the countries where life expectancy, income and education went backwards had experienced violent conflict. Of the 34 countries furthest from reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), 22 are in the midst of – or emerging from – violent conflict.1 Like other countries, the United Kingdom has a strong interest in reducing the likelihood of violent conflict. There are economic as well as security benefits. The average cost of one conflict is nearly equivalent to the value of annual development aid worldwide. An increase in violent conflict, as the UK Parliament’s Select Committee on International Development observed, could in effect cancel out all the new aid commitments made in 2005.2

Although, thankfully, the number of violent conflicts has fallen in recent years, other trends could increase the risk of violence. Mounting pressure on natural resources like land and water, aggravated by climate change, may bring competition at the local level which turns violent. And global competition to secure sources of energy and other minerals could contribute to instability and violence.3 So it is more essential than ever that we address the causes of violent conflict in order to bring the MDGs within reach and defeat extreme poverty. Poor people are increasingly concentrated in fragile states, where there is a high risk of violent conflict. By 2010, half of the world’s poorest people could be living in states that are experiencing, or at risk of, violent conflict.4 That is why we are committed to working more in fragile states – in fact we have already increased expenditure in our country programmes from 17% in 2000/01 to 30% in 2005/06.

But the way we do so has to take account of the impact our aid might have in increasing or reducing the chances of violence. We can then act accordingly to make sure it does help.

The UK Government’s Department for International Development (DFID) has published a number of papers which refer to the causes and effects of violence and insecurity. The 2006 White Paper looked at peace and security in the context of promoting better governance for the benefit of the poor.5 Other policy papers – such as those on social exclusion, security and development, fragile states and humanitarian issues – cover specific aspects of violent conflict.6 What this paper seeks to do is to show how we understand and respond to conflict across the breadth of our work.

This paper steps back from addressing the effects of violence and asks instead: how can DFID play a part in tackling the problems that contribute to violent conflict? A mixture of underlying causes and immediate events are often the triggers.

Dealing with these frequently takes us into difficult, highly political territory. DFID works with other government departments to try to reduce the threat of violence – in particular, with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), in dealing with politics involving national governments and international organisations such as the United Nations (UN) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD), in collaborating to provide a stable environment for development and reconstruction efforts as well as

broader security related activity. We also work with other donors and civil society, including women's groups. Much of DFID's development work focuses on the longer-term structural changes which can – if the politics works – reduce the underlying risks of violent conflict taking place. This paper explains what we will do in three areas:

Putting greater emphasis on preventing violent conflict :

We will work harder to prevent conflict before it turns, or returns, to violence and support local, national and international mechanisms to manage and resolve disputes peacefully.

Making our response to armed conflict more effective:

We will improve our practical and political support to peace processes and help build the capacity of international and regional organisations and civil society, as well as national governments, so that they can manage conflicts better. What we do when conflict breaks out will be tied more closely to dealing with the underlying causes.

Making our development work more 'conflict-sensitive':

We will ensure that our development work takes conflict into consideration through our Country Governance Assessments. We will develop better corporate approaches and systems to support our work in countries affected by conflict, including through strengthening our staff capacity, expertise and deployability and by improving the way we assess and deal with risk in planning country programmes.

1 Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals, UN Millennium Project, 2005. 2 Conflict and Development: Peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction; House of Commons International Development Committee, 25 October 2006. 3 Long-term opportunities and challenges for the UK: An Analysis for the Comprehensive Spending Review, HM Treasury, November 2006, pp92ff. 4 DFID calculations based on World Bank estimates in Global Economic Prospects: Economic implications of Remittances and Migration, World Bank, Washington 2006. 5 Making Governance Work for the Poor, A White Paper on International Development, July 2006. 6 See, for example, the following papers, which all refer to the impact of violent conflict and all agree that we need greater understanding of the factors that could lead to violent conflict. In the main, they do not focus on the importance of preventing violent conflict. – Why we need to work more effectively in Fragile States, DFID, January 2005, which outlines how to improve the effectiveness of aid to deliver services for poor people in fragile states. – Fighting poverty to build a safer world, DFID, March 2005, which shows how promoting the security of poor people can help address global security concerns. – Reducing poverty by tackling social exclusion, DFID, September 2005, which highlights the impact of social exclusion on efforts to reach the MDGs. – Saving lives, relieving suffering, protecting dignity: DFID's humanitarian policy, DFID, June 2006, which outlines how we can improve our response to the impact of disasters and violence. 7: Making Governance Work for the Poor, A White Paper on International Development, July 2006.

⁵⁹ DFID, Preventing Violent Conflict, DFID Policy Release, 2006, <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/preventing-conflict.pdf>