

THE CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVE ON ARMED VIOLENCE AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**The Oslo Conference on Armed Violence:
Achieving the Millennium Development Goals
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INTRODUCTION

Armed violence¹ – whether interpersonal, criminal, political or conflict-related – kills and injures women, men and children every minute of every day. By current estimates, it causes at least 740,000 direct and indirect deaths a year.² Hundreds of thousands more people are injured, often surviving with lifelong physical and psychosocial disability. Beyond these figures, however, the true scale of the impact of armed violence lies in the millions living in fear and insecurity, in broken families, in impoverished communities and countries, and in unstable regions.

Armed violence is fuelled by lack of development and inequality in the benefits of growth. Chronic armed violence can reflect a developmental deficit, where “state structures lack political will and/or capacity to provide the basic functions needed for poverty reduction, development and to safeguard the security and human rights of their populations.”³

Equally, however, armed violence represents a fundamental obstacle to developmental progress. Twenty-two out of the 34 poorest countries – those furthest from achieving their Millennium Development Goals – are currently affected by or emerging from armed conflict.⁴ High levels of homicidal violence are concentrated in low- and middle-income countries.⁵

Armed violence and its human and humanitarian consequences are not, however, limited to poor and emerging economies: high-income countries, too, can suffer from specific types of armed violence, whether domestically or in the international arena.

Armed violence presents a significant threat to human life, health, liberty, and social and economic development across the globe. As such it poses a formidable challenge to the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), whose laudable aims are unlikely to be achieved unless states as well as civil society actors seriously address armed violence.

1. Defined as ‘the intentional, threatened or actual use of arms to inflict death or injury’ (UN A/64/228, 2009).
2. Global Burden of Armed Violence, Geneva Declaration, 2008.
3. OECD. (2009). Armed Violence Reduction: Enabling development p.23.
4. Id.
5. Report of the United Nations Secretary General. “Promoting development through the reduction and prevention of armed violence.” A/64/228, 5 August 2009.

CONTENTS

This document contains three substantive papers, prepared by civil society organisations concerned with and working on armed violence reduction and development efforts.

1. The Millennium Development Goals:
threatened by armed violence

2. Facing the Facts:
measuring & monitoring armed violence

3. Revitalizing Development:
building assistance for victims and survivors

A fourth paper lays out opportunities for civil society organisations – and states – to ensure that armed violence is included in the 2010 MDG Review Summit, and in subsequent strategies towards MDG achievement for 2015 and beyond.

1. THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: THREATENED BY ARMED VIOLENCE

INTRODUCTION

Combining interpersonal, criminal, political and conflict-related forms, armed violence presents a significant barrier to the realisation of human security, human rights, equality, poverty reduction, provision of humanitarian and development assistance,⁶ and the achievement of many international development targets, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The MDG Review Process must recognise the impact of armed violence as a serious impediment to achieving poverty reduction and development. Concrete steps to coordinate global action to measure and reduce armed violence must be seen as part of international development efforts from 2010-2015 and beyond.

States and civil society organizations are meeting in Oslo in April 2010, to agree on concrete steps for the reduction of armed violence and the incorporation of this work into the MDG Review Process. Both states and civil society have responsibilities towards this common goal. States have the primary responsibility to provide security for their citizens and ensure the protection and fulfilment of human rights. Civil society and local organisations are already taking action on the ground. They are often closest to the communities affected, can help them be heard, and can monitor states' performance on commitments.

This paper looks at the relationship between armed violence and the MDGs over the last 10 years. It proposes the inclusion of armed violence as a cross-cutting issue that should be considered a significant but surmountable impediment to achievement of the MDGs in key areas.

ARMED VIOLENCE AND DEVELOPMENT ARE INTERRELATED

Development builds; violence destroys. Armed violence destroys massively and systematically. No country with high and persistent rates of armed

violence can claim to be adequately 'developed', whatever its economic status. The problem is circular. Poor governance and under-development – poverty, inequality, exclusion and lack of opportunity – fuel armed violence. The development process itself, if not managed equitably, can create contests that turn violent. And armed violence stops, hinders, slows and reverses the gains of development progress.

Despite obvious links between armed violence and (lack of) development, theories of development and theories of conflict have largely evolved in isolation from one another within social sciences.⁷ This division also extends into civil society, government and donor structures. From the early 1990s on, however, there has been a growing realisation of the link between armed violence and development, and its vital importance both to humanitarian and developmental strategies.⁸ A review of the impacts of armed violence clearly demonstrates the ways in which it hampers and undermines progress towards the MDGs over the last 10 years.

THE MDGS 10 YEARS ON: HOW ARMED VIOLENCE HAS PREVENTED PROGRESS

Armed violence kills around three-quarters of a million people each year. This is an appalling toll of loss for the victims, their families and their communities. But, as many countries caught in the 'conflict trap' have experienced, it is also a major economic problem.⁹ The immediate burden of armed, violent deaths falls on boys and young men between the ages of 15 and 49, cancelling out their potential contributions to household welfare, economic productivity and growth. The United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) estimates that armed violence costs as much as USD\$400 billion in lost productivity annually.¹⁰ Armed violence – excluding conflict-related costs¹¹ – imposes costs on countries, estimated at USD\$95-163 billion a year.

The availability of, and access to, conventional arms and ammunition can aggravate, intensify, and

prolong armed violence, and destabilise fragile post-conflict situations.¹² Irresponsible arms transfers and excessive military spending undermine all MDGs by diverting funds from social spending such as education and health care.¹³ Resources are wasted by military spending that goes beyond legitimate security needs. Such spending can also contribute to unsustainable debt service payments, which reduce resources for social spending – and it can fuel corruption.¹⁴

By reducing economic productivity and growth potential, and by diverting scarce economic resources from productive social investments such as primary health and education, armed violence saps the local and national 'energy' (a combination of resources, capacity and social cohesion) needed for development to make headway. But armed violence also impacts more directly on each of the MDGs.¹⁵

MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:

Armed violence can undermine poverty reduction. It destroys livelihoods – for example through reduced employment or access to productive land, or through forced displacement – increasing household poverty, often amongst the most vulnerable. When violence uproots poor agricultural families, they are often forced to abandon fixed household assets, or to sell them at a loss. Food security falls and malnutrition rises during periods of conflict. With many developing countries experiencing rapid urbanisation armed violence in cities can force closure of shops and businesses, entrenching concentrated urban poverty and disadvantage in densely populated and often ungoverned neighbourhoods.

MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education:

During periods of armed violence, teachers can be killed or displaced, children displaced or recruited as child soldiers. Schools can be closed and, in some instances, targeted for attack¹⁶. Children can lose vital years of education. And even when education services are restored, trauma from exposure to violence can damage children's capacity to learn.

MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women:

Although boys and men are the primary direct perpetrators and victims of armed violence, women and girls are directly and disproportionately exposed to systematic forms of rape and assault that often accompany it. Women and girls also bear a greater burden with regard to the longer term adverse effects of armed violence, including impoverishment and sole parenthood.¹⁷ The most prevalent form of violence globally is domestic abuse – primarily violence against women.

MDGs 4 & 5: Reduce child mortality & improve maternal health:

In addition to direct effects of armed violence, killing and injuring children and their

mothers, vital maternal and child survival health services and facilities can be destroyed or closed as a result of armed violence (including services such as immunisation). Significant progress has been made throughout the 1990s in reducing child mortality. But displacement of families as a result of armed violence can result in increased risk for children of infectious diseases such as acute respiratory infection, diarrhoea and malaria. These, along with persistent rates of malnutrition, present the major challenge to reaching MDG 4.¹⁸

MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases:

Both HIV/AIDS and malaria are estimated to increase during and following periods of sustained armed violence.¹⁹ Sexual violence against women as a systematic instrument associated with armed violence is a particularly grave concern, both with regard to violence against women and gender equity more broadly. Direct attacks on, general dilapidation of, and scarce resources diverted away from healthcare services as a result of armed violence reduce the efficacy of treatment especially among the most severely affected populations.

MDG 7: Ensure sustainable development:

Armed violence can be fuelled by high-value natural resources (oil, minerals, timber, diamonds) and is increasingly associated with fierce competition for scarce resources such as water and land.²⁰ Such conflicts can lead to or be fuelled by unsustainable practices in resource extraction and use. Moreover, revenue from natural resources during armed conflict is less likely to flow to government for investment in developmental services. Large-scale displacement of people can lead to accelerated rural-to-urban migration, resulting in both agricultural desertion and urban overpopulation. Environmental degradation and climate change can act as a threat multiplier.²¹ Also, military activity is itself a significant source of global greenhouse gas emissions and environmental degradation generally.²²

MULTILATERAL RESPONSES TO ARMED VIOLENCE AND THE MDGS²³

From the declaration of the MDGs themselves, the last 10 years have seen a growth in multilateral and global agreements supporting the twin imperatives of development and armed violence reduction. The Millennium Declaration, in 2000, stated that peace and security are necessary conditions for development. All states committed to 'address armed conflict, implement arms control and disarmament treaties, create an environment... conducive to development and the elimination of poverty, and... to ensure that children and civilian populations suffering disproportionately the consequences of armed conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies are given every assistance and protection'.²⁴

In 2004, the MDG Poverty Task Force identified armed violence as a key factor in MDG progress.²⁵ At the 2005 World Summit, States Members of the United Nations recognized that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing (A/60/1). Signatories to the Millennium Summit Outcome Document (2005) called for action across the board on armed violence, including:

- Eliminating “all forms of discrimination and violence against women and the girl child, including by ending impunity and by ensuring the protection of civilians, in particular women and the girl child, during and after armed conflicts in accordance with the obligations of States under international humanitarian law and international human rights law”;

- Stressing “the importance of prevention of armed conflict in accordance with the purposes and principles of the [UN] Charter and solemnly renew[ing] our commitment to promote a culture of prevention of armed conflict as a means of effectively addressing the interconnected security and development challenges faced by peoples throughout the world, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations for the prevention of armed conflict”; stressing “the importance of a coherent and integrated approach to the prevention of armed conflicts and the settlement of disputes”;

- Supporting “implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects”;

- Expressing “our grave concern at the negative effects on development, peace and security and human rights posed by transnational crime, including the smuggling of and trafficking in human beings, the world narcotic drug problem and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and at the increasing vulnerability of States to such crime” and reaffirming “the need to work collectively to combat transnational crime”.

A growing body of international and multilateral statements, commitments and agreements reflect the common recognition of armed violence reduction as a key factor in development success.

- A/C.1/60/L.34/Rev.1 (A/RES/60/68) Addressing the humanitarian and development impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (2005)

- The Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development (2006)

- UN GA Resolution on the relationship between disarmament and development (1994-2010)

- The UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons Review Conference (2006)

- UN Resolution and process towards an Arms Trade Treaty (2006)

- United Nations Africa and the MDGs update (2007)

- The MDG Africa Steering Group, Achieving the MDGs in Africa (2008); Women, Peace and Security – UNSC 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008)

- UN Resolutions on Children and Armed Conflict (1999-2009)

- UN Resolution on Armed Violence and Development (2008)

- The UN Secretary General’s Report on Armed Violence and Development (2009)

A CALL FOR ACTION

The last 10 years has seen significant global efforts to achieve the MDGs. Yet, for communities affected by armed violence in some of the poorest parts of the world, armed violence is a central reason why development progress has not been made. Armed violence is both a cause and consequence of underdevelopment. This paper calls for the inclusion of armed violence as a cross-cutting issue within the MDG review process. It challenges states to take a holistic approach and to make the following commitments:

Act to end armed violence

This includes seeking peaceful solutions to conflicts, strengthening peacebuilding efforts, protecting civilians, working in partnership with civil society to strengthen short and long-term prevention programming, and providing improved development assistance to affected communities and survivors. States must demonstrate the efforts they are taking to reduce armed violence – both conflict-related and relating to interpersonal and criminal acts – and show that these efforts are taking effect.

Face the facts of armed violence

States must ensure proper monitoring and reporting of the incidence and impact of armed violence, develop quantifiable targets for its reduction, and employ transparent, publicly verifiable indicators for measuring the success of their efforts. This is a fundamental responsibility.

Assist the victims of armed violence

States should acknowledge their obligation to assist victims of armed violence in meeting their needs and enjoying their rights– including those injured or traumatised and affected families and communities.

Coordinate national and global action

Nationally and internationally, states and their partners, including donors, must recognise that focused and specific development planning with increased international assistance and coordination are needed to reduce armed violence, and thereby increase the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programmes.

Support global instruments that reinforce armed violence reduction

States must act on their commitments and strengthen support for existing and emerging global norms and instruments related to armed violence reduction, including disarmament and arms control agreements, human rights conventions and the MDGs themselves.

10. Submission of the United Kingdom to the Secretary-General’s report on Armed Violence and Development, A/64/228, 2009.

11. Geneva Declaration, Global Burden of Armed Violence, 2008.

12. Guidance on Armed Violence Reduction and Prevention. The SecDev Group and Small Arms Survey (2008), OECD-DAC.

13. <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/sc9501.doc.htm>. UN Charter Article 26 calls for the regulation of armaments in order to ensure the least diversion of human and economic resources from global needs. During the financial crisis in 2008, increasing global military expenditures caused the UN Security Council to express

concern, and to urge appropriate levels of spending and continued commitment to achieve the MDGs.

14. Shooting Down the MDGs. Oxfam Briefing Paper, October 2008.

15. Id. Guidance on Armed Violence Reduction and Prevention. The SecDev Group and Small Arms Survey (2008), OECD-DAC.

16. Attacks on schools are among the grave violations covered in the annual report of the UN Secretary-General to the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict, released on 22 April, 2009.

17. Li, Q., Wen, M. (2005). The Immediate and Lingering Effects of Armed Conflict on Adult Mortality: A Time-Series Cross-National Analysis. *Journal of Peace Research* 42: 471-492.

18. WHO, 2006.

19. Hoeffler & Reynal-Querol, 2003.

20. From Conflict to Peacebuilding. The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment.”. UNEP Policy Paper No. 1, 2009:5.

21. Brown & Crawford: “Rising Temperatures, Rising Tensions: Climate Change and the Risk of Violent Conflict in the Middle East.” IISD, 2009; “National Security and the threat of Climate Change.” The CNA Corporation, 2007.

22. Montonen, C. (2009): Environmental impact of military activities.

23. These measures themselves bear out commitment under MDG 8 to strengthen international partnership and collaboration

24. UN Millennium Declaration <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

25. Violent Conflict and the MDGs: Goals, diagnosis and recommendations prepared for the MDG Poverty Task Force 2004.

6. Medecins Sans Frontieres, 2008: ‘Top Ten’ humanitarian crises reveal growing insecurity, neglected health needs.

7. MacGinty & Williams (2009:1): Conflict and Development. New York: Routledge.

8. UNDP, 1994. The concept of human security was highly influential in broadening conceptualisations of a nexus of human rights, humanitarian law, security, justice and development.

9. Paul Collier (2007): The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It. Oxford University Press.

2. FACING THE FACTS: MEASURING & MONITORING ARMED VIOLENCE

INTRODUCTION

An effective response to armed violence must involve transparently monitoring, measuring, and squarely facing the facts of armed violence. Those facts must include the mortality and morbidity that constitute armed violence's most immediately measurable consequences – as well as the damage to the civil infrastructure and built environment that are often its most visible signs. But they must also include the full array of profound psychosocial and economic impacts that are capable of leaving individuals, families, societies and entire regions devastated, living in entrenched poverty and insecurity for generations.

At present monitoring of the incidence and impact of armed violence around the world is inconsistent, unreliable, contested or non-existent. It should be systematic, standardised, shared and transparent, involving both governments, as those responsible for people's protection, and the civil society organisations closest to the affected communities witnessing the reality of armed violence. This paper makes three key points:

- Monitoring armed violence is the only way to locate, understand and thus effectively act on the problem.
- Monitoring armed violence is a function in which all of a society's actors have a stake. The fundamental responsibility to ensure monitoring – and consequent preventive and remedial action – is borne by the state.²⁶ Protection, safety and security are basic elements of the responsibility of governments towards their citizens, while monitoring the results of the provision of protection is a vital element of transparency in governance.
- Monitoring the incidence and impact of armed violence requires stronger collaborative systems of data-gathering and analysis, with a much stronger emphasis on building the capacity of affected communities and civil society organisations more broadly to contribute to and participate in transparent local and national monitoring systems.

WHY MONITOR ARMED VIOLENCE?

Intrinsic value. A problem largely unknown or misunderstood is difficult, if not impossible, to address. Knowledge of the incidence and impact of armed violence is at present limited and far too often vague and speculative where it should be clear, detailed and distinct. Communities and families afflicted by armed violence need to know that their reality is recognised and acknowledged, rather than hidden away and ignored.

Accountability. The state bears responsibility to protect its citizens from harm. In order to fulfil this responsibility, governments must know when such protection has failed or is failing. Both within their countries, and when acting internationally, governments are accountable for deaths and injuries they cause or unreasonably fail to prevent.

Armed violence undermines human rights.²⁷ Ensuring the visibility and dignity of those harmed – acknowledging the dead, and providing assistance to survivors – is a matter of duty, set out clearly in international agreements, and whose importance is underlined by civil society responses to the issue.

For instance, 108 states have now signed up to achieving 'measurable reductions in armed violence by 2015'²⁸, while civil society, both locally in affected communities and through growing global networks, is increasingly active in recording the realities of armed violence when it occurs, and vocal in demanding action to reduce it.

Effectiveness. Armed violence reduction is not only a moral matter, it is a practical necessity. The relationship between armed violence and socio-economic development is two-way. Armed violence obstructs development, making armed violence reduction a necessary strategy for development progress. But also, under- and inequitable development can provoke armed violence – hence development investments, policies, plans and programmes can be designed in ways that are known to reduce armed violence risk factors.

It is more or less impossible to understand the causes of armed violence, to identify effective

responses, and to show that armed violence is being reduced without robust, transparently produced data.

Reliable data on the rate and trend in armed violence – both at local and at national levels – is indispensable in determining whether and which kinds of developmental, humanitarian and/or disarmament interventions are effective in reducing armed violence. At the same time, the effectiveness of development policies and programmes can be assessed by the prevailing levels of armed violence and insecurity to which people are exposed.

WHAT TO MONITOR?

Political, criminal, interpersonal. 'Armed violence' covers many types of violence with weapons, including both conflict and non-conflict contexts. This reflects the breadth of the phenomenon, and the need to understand armed violence as a pervasive social problem stretching from intensive interpersonal violence in specific communities to widespread collective violence and war.

Direct impacts. Armed violence kills. But it frequently injures a much wider number of people, both physically and psychologically, leading to long-term, often lifelong disabilities. Survivors of armed violence must be included in monitoring in order to ensure that assistance is provided to them to help them achieve their human rights.

Armed violence also destroys – sometimes in a single moment, sometimes through slow and relentless erosion – infrastructures for human security, welfare, and progress that may have taken generations to build up. Measuring and monitoring destruction of infrastructure resulting from armed violence is vital both for strengthening norms that prohibit attacks on infrastructures vital to human welfare and development, and for identifying priorities for immediate infrastructure rehabilitation to limit medium and long-term impact on health, education, production, trade and economic recovery.

Indirect impacts. The direct armed impacts of armed violence – deaths and injuries – are only the tragic beginning of the story. As we discussed earlier, armed violence imposes considerable additional costs on an economy: diverting scarce economic resources into expenditure on emergency health and security, for example, and reducing investment and economic opportunities. A wider indirect impact of armed violence is the level of insecurity affected communities experience, resulting in severe limitations on the availability of vital basic services and on people attempting to go about their daily business, thus increasing indirect mortality rates as well as reducing productivity and social activities linked to other areas of human welfare. It is just as important

to understand these effects in order to identify appropriate, integrated security and development interventions. Monitoring armed violence therefore needs to include data on both incidence and impact, even if the latter's effects can be diffuse and require more indirect approaches to measurement.

Risk factors. Effective and lasting preventive action can only be built by understanding what kinds of deeper social factors increase the risk of armed violence. This includes immediate problems such as access to weapons, but also more structural factors such as inequality, unemployment, lack of youth opportunities, rapid and unregulated urbanisation, and deep historical grievances, including those stemming from earlier outbreaks of armed violence. A related risk factor is that past failure to properly record, recognise and acknowledge human losses can in itself be used to inflame grievances and perpetuate cycles of armed violence. Only by identifying the full range of underlying causes can interventions be designed that are likely to reduce armed violence not just in the immediate future but long-term.

HOW TO MONITOR?

At the appropriate level. Much current data on armed violence are 'top-down' in perspective and in the way they are generated. Global data-sets indicating the broad scale of the problem are useful in galvanising the attention of the international and donor communities, although this value may be shortlived. The realities of armed violence are experienced nationally and locally, by individuals and communities on the ground – whether as perpetrators or as victims. Consequently, armed violence monitoring requires building up from the bottom: supporting people, organising as civil society, to monitor the levels of armed violence they themselves are experiencing, and then using this evidence to call for appropriate action.

A comprehensive, robust and ultimately more legitimate picture at the level of individual states can be achieved by combining localised civil society and governmental data on armed violence (and progress, if any, on its reduction) through an independent national monitoring body. This will require mobilising and building upon local capacity to ensure that civil society organisations are fully involved in, rather than on the periphery of, such larger-scale initiatives. Transparency is key, in that in its absence there can be no assurance that claims match the facts on the ground, which ultimately undermines the value of monitoring.

With appropriate methods. Methods used to gather data on armed violence range from international surveys and national statistical databases to more localised surveys, as well as incident reporting and

listing of specific deaths and injuries. Armed violence monitoring should include a combination of disaggregated, detailed local knowledge and wider quantitative aggregation, a two-directional approach that prevents aggregation from becoming a barrier to transparency and verifiability.

Broad estimates based on statistical sampling can be useful for indicating the population or demographic level of the problem, such data being useful for broad public health analyses and, in some instances, for generating political and international attention. However, sample surveys gathering data on armed violence can generate widely differing numbers, and hence different conclusions about the nature and severity of the problem. To be useful, such surveys need to be fully transparent about their methods and limitations. Further, large-scale surveys on their own often do not capture the details of armed violence incidents, which are critical both to understanding who is being harmed and how, and for recognising the dignity and rights of individuals involved. More localised monitoring methods – building the capacity of local communities to gather, organise, analyse and disseminate data on the armed violence affecting them – can produce insight into specific problems (and effective ways to address them), such as when armed violence tends to be highly localised and/or concentrated against certain groups (e.g. by gender, ethnicity, profession).

In building independent national armed violence monitoring capacity, it will be important to consider how armed violence monitoring by civil society organisations, whether on a national or local scale, can be better linked in with governmental and other official statistical systems, and surveys.

In building networks from one country to another that link armed violence-monitoring civil society organisations into an emergent global community of practice, it will be important to establish appropriate, open standards for data gathering and verification, and the adoption and spread of new methods and technologies.

A CALL FOR ACTION

To address armed violence effectively it is vital, for states and civil society alike, to build better measurement and monitoring systems. Stronger, transparent, national and local armed violence monitoring systems are needed. Improving data on armed violence is a state responsibility; ensuring that it is done comprehensively, effectively, and in accordance with local needs is an action that will need to involve both governments and civil society organisations.

Improving data on armed violence recognises the inalienable rights of individuals and strengthens effective prevention and reduction. Effective prevention and reduction, in turn, improve countries' development opportunities, including the realization of the MDGs.

26. Geneva Convention I of 1949 for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, 75 UNTS 31, Articles 15-17, Geneva Convention II of 1949 for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of the Armed Forces at Sea, 75 UNTS 85, Article s 18-21, Geneva Convention III of 1949 Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, 75 UNTS 135, Articles 120 and 121, and Geneva Convention IV of 1949 Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. 75 UNTS 287 Articles 16 and 129-131.

27. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 9f 1966, 999 UNTS 171, held by the International Court of Justice in the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, Advisory Opinion of 8 July 1996, [1996 ICJ Reports 66 to be applicable in times of armed conflict].

28. Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, 2006.

3. REVITALIZING DEVELOPMENT: BUILDING ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF ARMED VIOLENCE

INTRODUCTION

Armed violence and its impacts represent a breach in the fundamental norms of social protection and governance. Reducing the impact of armed violence must take as its starting point the people that are affected by armed violence.²⁹ This paper calls on states, civil society and international organizations to strengthen their efforts to assist victims of armed violence, as a moral and pragmatic imperative and an integral part of armed violence reduction.

It argues that a rights-based approach to victim assistance helps align efforts at reduction in the impact of armed violence with broader development, human rights and other relevant mechanisms.³⁰ Indeed, a rightsbased approach to victim assistance can more strongly imbue wider humanitarian and developmental interventions with principles of equality, non-discrimination, full inclusion and participation, openness, accountability and transparency.³¹

According to recent research, armed violence kills at least 740,000 people each year – the vast majority of them civilians. Many more suffer injuries or acquire long-term disabilities. Armed violence destroys the social fabric of communities, undermining human, social and economic development efforts. Many survivors are left with deep psychological and physical scars.³²

As part of efforts to improve human development, such as the Millennium Development Goals, states, international organisations and civil society have increasingly joined forces in collective commitment to achieving measurable reductions in the incidence and impact of armed violence.³³ Assistance to victims of armed violence is a direct intervention in pursuit of the reduction of such impact. The UN Secretary General has identified support to the victims and survivors of armed violence as important for rebuilding communities, families and lives.³⁴

The terminology of 'victims' – and consequently of 'victim assistance' – is now used in a range of

connected contexts, including victims of crimes and abuse of power,³⁵ torture victims, the work of the International Criminal Court,³⁶ and transitional justice initiatives.³⁷ States have already recognized their responsibility to provide assistance in a similar way in all of these and in other contexts as well, for example to victims of human trafficking,³⁸ and victims of gross violations of human rights.³⁹

Assisting those who have suffered a failure of the social norms of protection is, in the first instance, a moral imperative. Just as importantly, rights-based victim assistance offers a range of practical benefits as well – from fostering effective reconciliation and reconstruction after conflict, through reducing long-term costs of disability and maximizing social and economic participation of survivors, to ensuring proper processes of justice.

This paper describes what rights-based victim assistance is, and why it should be an integral component of armed violence reduction efforts, both as a responsibility of states and a strategic entry point for interventions to reduce armed violence. It presents a framework that can be useful guidance on the main elements of effective interventions, a 'pathfinder' that can be adapted and applied to context-specific circumstances. The paper shows how assistance to victims enhances broader development and armed violence reduction efforts. Finally, it looks at the potential for such a framework to serve as a forum for cross-sectoral cooperation on the domestic level and in the realm of international cooperation.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE – A HOLISTIC ENDEAVOUR

In assisting victims, it is essential to address recovery from trauma as a holistic endeavour, a process that goes beyond medical care and rehabilitation alone. Assistance efforts should aim to increase access to opportunities for improvement of survivors' lives, and to create an enabling environment where victims of armed violence can take part in the decision-making processes affecting their lives as full citizens and equal members of society.

States have recognized that medical treatment alone is insufficient to enable a survivor to reclaim his or her rightful place in society. Certainly, assistance is vital for the direct, health-related consequences of injuries inflicted by armed violence, including physical injuries, psychological trauma, and long-term disabilities. But in addition to responding to the physical impact, assistance measures must also address victims' lack of access to adequate employment, to the means for providing for their families, and to participation in the life of the community on an equal basis with others. In the framework of implementation for victim assistance for landmine survivors, the survivors themselves identified priority areas for assistance to include not only emergency medical care and rehabilitation, but also economic and social reintegration.⁴⁰

To be effective and fair, assistance to armed violence victims must be based on comprehensive, reliable and up-to-date data on the extent and type of specific harm to the individual victim, as well as his/her family and affected community. Collection of data is not an end in itself, but is a means by which to acknowledge victims and develop appropriate policies.⁴¹ As we have argued in the last paper, types of data collected should go beyond the numbers of individuals injured and killed and address the broader consequences of armed violence, for example, measurable aspects of long-term recovery, and the economic impact on individuals and communities. Data collection should use both quantitative and qualitative tools, and should, over time, be integrated with other relevant humanitarian and development instruments such as national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

Assistance to victims should be developed in keeping with the perspectives and needs of victims, and on the priorities identified by them. A rights-based approach to victim assistance takes as its starting point the individual victim and her/his recovery as a holistic process "grounded in the resumption of the ordinary rhythms of everyday life – the familial, socio-cultural, religious, and economic activities."⁴² This approach views survivors as powerful and capable agents in their own recovery, and as valuable contributors to the well-being of the society.

Recovery is a process that must engage the families and communities of those injured, as they are indirectly victimized, but also because they are essential for an individual's healing. Trauma is never experienced solely by the individual victim. Armed violence has a detrimental effect on community organization and cohesion, with decreased levels of trust in other community members and the state.⁴³ By supporting recovery of victims inclusively – addressing the individual, family and affected community – such efforts seek to reduce social attitudes that promote exclusion, stigma and discrimination.

THE INDIVIDUAL VICTIM AND BEYOND – SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Victims of armed violence often come from marginalized communities, excluded from a wide variety of development opportunities, even before their injury. Thus, the process of 'recovery' should not seek to 'repair' the individual to pre-injury conditions. Rather, successfully providing assistance to victims and survivors of armed violence can provide a model for strengthening wider systems of service provision that, themselves, relieve broader community levels of poverty and dispossession, in a relatively cost-effective manner. In situations where resources and capacities of the state are scarce, and the needs of the population immense, a framework for acute assistance to victims of armed violence can help states in planning and prioritizing resource allocation. Improving access to services for victims (as an example of an assistance program) can be conducted in ways that improve access to services for the entire community.

Assistance to victims of armed violence draws on broadly-acknowledged human rights standards and principles. It recognizes the importance of looking beyond the individual victim toward the broader relationship between individuals, their communities and their government. In this way, victim assistance takes into account the obstacles that exist in society and preventing equal access to opportunities for marginalized groups in general. Victim assistance aims to build the resilience of communities by building the resilience of its most vulnerable members.

Armed violence breaks social norms and undermines the legitimacy and resilience of state-citizen relations. Rebuilding, and in fact transforming, the relationship between the state and its citizens is a key dimension of armed violence reduction. Improving the well-being of victims, and enabling their active participation in decision-making processes affecting their lives, helps repair and strengthen norms of the state-civil society relationship.⁴⁴

Assisting victims of armed violence can help the state gain greater legitimacy with those whom violence has betrayed. Prioritizing and actively implementing measures for victim assistance sends a powerful message and represents concrete evidence of a state's political will to reform and improve the lives of its citizens. Victim assistance can enhance capacity for interaction and collaboration between state and civil society to address insecurity as defined and perceived by the people and communities affected by armed violence.

In the longer term, a rights-based victim assistance framework targets structural risk factors for armed violence by focusing on improving access to basic

vital services and livelihood opportunities, reducing social and economic inequality among those most affected by armed violence. As such, it offers an entry point through which to work toward a re-creation, a restructuring of relationships in a society to decrease inequalities, discrimination and weak governance that are at the root of armed violence. Moreover, it targets precisely those people who have experienced "fresh exposure to past violence," one of the most powerful proximate risk factors for armed violence resurgence.⁴⁵

Victim assistance, when it embodies the principles and standards of human rights, can enhance armed violence reduction as well as wider development efforts. By including victim assistance in development planning, underpinned by national and international frameworks of rights, armed violence victim assistance can act as a 'pathfinder' for building inclusive systems and services vital to human development more broadly.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACHES TO VICTIM ASSISTANCE

The rights-based victim assistance framework is not a new form of programming, or a new set of obligations. Nor does it require creating separate mechanisms solely for victims.⁴⁶ Rather, assistance to victims should be done in such a way as to promote the development of services, infrastructure, and policies which address the rights and needs of all women, men, boys and girls living in vulnerable circumstances of poverty and exclusion.⁴⁷

Victim assistance is already embedded in a wide range of widely supported international instruments.⁴⁸ However, in many cases, the concept of assistance is restricted to medical and legal support or monetary compensation. Even in cases where commitments go beyond such areas, they do not often address fully the institutional shortcomings that enable victimization and prevent victims from accessing equal opportunities. What is needed is a more integrated, holistic approach. Perhaps the most holistic approach to victim assistance developed to-date – and one that aims at structural change rather than individual responses alone – is the work that has been done under the implementation framework of arms control treaties: the Mine Ban Treaty (1997), the Convention on Conventional Weapons Protocol V (2003), and most recently the Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008).⁴⁹ Here, victim assistance has evolved into a well-developed analytical and legally-binding framework for the development of laws and policies for assistance to victims in recovery and inclusion.

The rights-based framework in international law gives general guidance on elements of implementation with a bearing on victim assistance, including:

- Assessment of needs of victims;
- National action planning with budget allocation;
- Mobilization of national and international resources;
- Non-discrimination, with policy and action based on individual's needs;
- Close consultation with and active involvement of survivors and civil society in assistance;
- Designating a focal point with sufficient resources and mandate to coordinate matters related to implementation;
- Incorporating relevant standards and guidelines, as well as good practices in areas of medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as well as social and economic inclusion.

These are the building blocks of broader development processes. As such, armed violence reduction – including victim assistance – could be incorporated in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) process by ensuring that the conditions and priority needs of victims and affected communities are an integral part of the strategy. In this and other relevant national and local development plans and frameworks, victim assistance can serve as an 'acute' model of intervention. It can provide clear indicators of success, and be useful for guidance in building wider institutions and systems for inclusion and services on which broader development progress depends.

A CALL TO ACTION

Armed violence victimization requires institutional responses that aim to improve the resilience and legitimacy of the state-citizen relationship. Victim assistance should, ultimately, contribute to broader system-level reforms consistent with wider developmental goals, by strengthening institutions, policies and laws. It should be informed by human rights principles and standards, and with input and participation of victims in the entire process.⁵⁰

The success of victim assistance ultimately rests on the quality of implementation at national and community levels. A key lesson, reinforced by the experience of recent disarmament agreements such as the Mine Ban Treaty, is that victim assistance works better when coordinated through a specifically assigned focal point or mechanism within government to convene relevant stakeholders for the development of national action plans. Such mechanisms themselves offer an effective forum for greater cross-sector collaboration, necessary for participatory development planning and action, and for effective armed violence reduction.

States should recognize and affirm the rights and needs of victims of armed violence, and commit to concrete steps to provide age- and gender-sensitive assistance, including medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, and social and economic inclusion.

States should include victim assistance in all armed violence reduction initiatives, and should ensure armed violence reduction and prevention are included as explicit goals in national and local development planning and programmes.

States should support the inclusion of armed violence reduction and victim assistance in all relevant international frameworks, including the Millennium Development Goals and other evolving legal and political instruments.

States should convene a platform for international cooperation and use a rights-based framework for victim assistance to help guide international assistance resources for purposes of armed violence reduction efforts.

29. OECD, *Armed Violence Reduction: Enabling Development*, 2009, p.49.

30. *Id.* p.22

31. Co-Chairs of Standing Committee on Victim Assistance. "Assisting the victims: recommendations for implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan" November 30, 2010. p.2.

32. OECD, p.28.

33. Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development. 2006.

34. United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. Handbook on Justice for Victims: On the Use and Application of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (1999), available at: www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/10_commission/ngo1e.pdf

35. The Victims Rights Working Group,

which promotes the rights and interests of victims before the International Criminal Court. <http://www.vrwg.org/>

36. International Centre for Transitional Justice, <http://www.ictj.org/>.

37. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking. Addendum to the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, E/2002/68/Add.1.

38. United Nations General Assembly. Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. A/40/43 of 29 November 1985.

39. First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009: Ending the Suffering Caused by Anti-Personnel Mines, December 2004.

40. Data should be collected in a manner that respects the privacy of the individual victims, and should assure confidentiality in the process.

41. Derek Summerfield. Effects of war: moral knowledge, revenge, reconciliation and medicalised concepts of "recovery." *British Medical Journal* 2002;325;1105-1107.

42. Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. *Small Arms Survey 2008: Risk and Resilience*, p.231.

43. OECD, 2009. *Armed Violence Reduction: Enabling development*, p.22

44. *Id.* p.33.

45. Convention on Cluster Munitions. Article 5(2) Victim Assistance.

46. The First Review Conference Of The States Parties to the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction. Final Report, para 67. December 2004.

47. See, e.g. 'Victims and Survivors of Armed Violence: responding to rights and needs', Oslo Conference on Armed Violence, Background Paper, AQAV, 2010.

48. Article 6.3., Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,; Article 5, Convention on Cluster Munitions; Victim Assistance Plan of Action, Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW): Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War,.

49. See above note 23.

50. Final Report of the Nairobi Review Conference. para 69.

4. STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE ARMED VIOLENCE REDUCTION IN THE MDG REVIEW PROCESS⁵¹

INTRODUCTION

This paper outlines practical ways in which civil society and governments can input into the 2010 MDG Review Process with a view to ensuring that armed violence is included as a cross-cutting issue within the process and in the MDG Summit's outcome document, and that armed violence reduction and prevention is included in ensuing MDG and development strategies to 2015 and beyond.

The document covers the following aspects of the MDG Review Process:

- Opportunities for NGO engagement
- State engagement
- Next steps
- Calendar of events leading to the MDG Summit and useful links (annex)

THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY SUMMIT ON THE MDGS⁵²

The High-Level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the UN General Assembly will be held from Monday 20 to Wednesday 22 September 2010, at the UN Headquarters in New York. The High-Level Plenary Meeting will focus on accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, taking into account the progress made through a comprehensive review leading to concrete strategies for action.

The meeting will consist of six plenary sessions (two sessions per day), and six interactive round-table sessions run concurrently with the plenary. A limited number of countries and civil society representatives will be able to participate in the round-tables.⁵³ They will cover the following topics:

1. Addressing the challenge of poverty, hunger and gender equality
2. Meeting the goals of health and education
3. Promoting sustainable development
4. Addressing emerging issues and evolving approaches⁵⁴
5. Addressing the special needs of the most vulnerable
6. Widening and strengthening partnerships

The meeting will result in the adoption of a concise and action-oriented outcome document to be agreed by Member States. The work of civil society and member states will be to ensure that armed violence is recognized in this outcome document as a key factor hindering the achievement of the MDGs.

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

"The President of the General Assembly will consult with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, and with Member States, as appropriate, on the list of representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector that may participate in the plenary meetings and the round tables of the Highlevel Plenary Meeting of September 2010" (UN GA Resolution A/RES/64/184, 5 February 2010). In addition, interested NGOs not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and private sector representatives may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure (UN GA Resolution A/RES/64/184, 5 February 2010).

PRE-SUMMIT PROCESS

Several meetings and reports are being planned in advance of the High-Level Plenary Summit, which will help Member States to identify challenges to MDG progress and opportunities, lessons learned and best practices to accelerate achievement of the Goals in advance of the 2015 deadline. As such, these meetings and reports provide a key opportunity to highlight the importance of armed violence reduction and prevention as a key enabler of MDG achievement. The UN General Assembly President, Libya, with co-facilitation from Senegal and Denmark, will run open consultations with civil society and with governments on the outcome document from mid-April, with a view to concluding this in mid-July. Listed below are concrete ways in which both civil society and states will be able to input into the outcome document.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NGO ENGAGEMENT

There are three main opportunities for civil society input into the outcome document.⁵⁵

Informal Interactive Hearings: In order to provide input to the preparatory process for the 'MDG Summit', the UN General Assembly has asked the UN GA President to convene 'Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector'.⁵⁶ Member States are also encouraged to actively participate in the Hearings in order to facilitate interaction between Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. The Hearings will take place from 14 to 15 June 2010 at UN Headquarters in New York. The President of the GA will produce a report summarizing findings from this meeting. The findings will be considered in the elaboration of the MDG Summit's outcome document.

The President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States and representatives of nongovernmental organizations will determine the list of invited participants. The UN Secretary-General has also established a Trust Fund to support the participation of non-governmental and civil society representatives of developing countries in the Hearings and at the Summit itself.

Themes and format⁵⁷ for participation in the Hearings are still under discussion at the time of printing. You are advised to visit the website of the UN Millennium Campaign www.un-ngls.org/ where you will soon be able to find additional information on how to participate. A Task Force⁵⁸ nominated by the UN GA President will review all applicants and will make a recommendation to the President on who should speak at the event.

Additionally one representative of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, one representative of civil society and one representative from the private sector selected at the Hearings may also be included in the list of speakers for the High-Level Plenary Meeting in September.

Input to the UN SG Report on the status of the MDGs: In March 2010, the UN Secretary-General presented his report "Keeping the Promise",⁵⁹ which calls on world leaders meeting at the MDG Summit in New York to adopt a global action agenda that will accelerate progress towards the achievement of the MDGs by 2015. The report will be distributed as an informal background document during the Informal Interactive Hearings and it will also be promoted throughout the Summit itself.

In the report, the UN SG specifically mentions that: "armed violence, conflict (inter-State, civil and criminal) and the resulting breakdown of the rule of law, justice and security are also a major threat to human security and to the hard-won Millennium Development Goal gains". He also underlines the need for strengthening institutions that monitor conflicts, crime and violence as well as identifying and addressing underlying drivers and risk factors before they turn into armed conflicts.⁶⁰

Civil society can comment on the report by submitting an online application that can be found here www.un-ngls.org/mdgconsultation/start.php. In particular, organizations should submit their views and opinions on the interrelation between armed violence and the MDGs under theme number 2 on "Emerging issues and challenges". Submissions should be sent no later than 7 May 2010. The various inputs and policy recommendations received through the consultation will be analyzed and summarized into a compilation report which will serve as an informal input into the Informal Interactive Hearings, the inter-governmental process of negotiations on the outcome document and on the MDG Summit itself.

Round-tables at the MDG Summit: Civil society representatives will have four seats available at each round-table. Through these 4 representatives, civil society will be able to participate in concrete discussions on the action plan and the way forward towards the achievement of the MDGs. These round-tables are another opportunity to ensure that the link between armed violence and development will be recognized and taken into account when discussing future action plans. Civil society representatives in each round-table will be selected from the final list of NGOs and civil society organizations that have received formal UN accreditation to participate in the High-Level Plenary Meeting.

STATE ENGAGEMENT

States have several ways to input into the MDG Summit's outcome document:

The Oslo High-Level Conference on Armed Violence: States participating in the Oslo Conference (21-22 April, 2010) will input into discussions on the interrelation between armed violence and the MDGs. They will agree several collective commitments, including a commitment to include armed violence as a key issue in the MDG Review Process. The outcome document of the conference will be presented to the President of the GA for his consideration in the elaboration of the MDG Summit outcome document.

Open Consultations: The President of the GA will hold open consultations with all Member States with a view to reaching broad agreement on the content of the outcome document of the Summit. Through these ongoing consultations, states will be able to discuss with the President of the GA progress and difficulties in achieving the MDGs as well as requesting that specific reference be made to armed violence as one of the key factors hindering progress in the MDGs.

Deliberations of the UN Economic and Social Council & Annual Ministerial Review: The Second Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) will be held in July 2010 in New York with the aim of enhancing the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and promoting dialogue to find effective ways to support them. Participants include representatives from developing and developed countries, including bilateral development agencies, UN system organizations, World Bank, IMF, OECD, regional development banks as well as civil society and the private sector. Countries participating will have a chance to insert armed violence as one of the impediments in the effective implementation of the MDGs.

MDG Country Reports: The UN Development Group is conducting a country-level MDG reporting process that seeks to generate deeper analyses and country-level evidence on why progress is being made on some MDGs and not on others, how to improve MDG progress, and how to address new challenges and opportunities. Through this process countries have an opportunity to include armed violence in MDG country reports, by showing how it impacts on MDG progress but also by showing how armed violence reduction and prevention can have a positive impact in advancing MDG achievement.

For more information on the status of consultations, countries can consult the UN Development Group homepage: <http://www.undg-policy.net.org>. In this

page states can also find the 2003 Guidance Note for MDG Reports and its 2009 Addendum that should support them in drafting the content of the report.

MDG Progress Report: UNDP and UNDESA are producing the annual MDG Progress Report that this year has been brought forward from September to July. This in-depth report focuses on the achievability of MDGs in about 40 countries including countries with good level of development and countries that are dealing with various crisis settings. A synthesis report will be prepared by UNDP in April 2010. Countries that are working on this report with UNDP will be able to show concrete steps that have been taken towards the achievement of the MDGs and detail examples of factors that are hindering this achievement – armed violence in most cases being one of them.

Regional consultations and reports: The Regional MDG Commission, in collaboration with development banks and other relevant entities, are holding ongoing regional consultations in the first half of 2010 where governments can discuss progress and difficulties in achieving the MDGs regionally.

In addition, Member States of the G8 will be able to input into the "MDG Needs Assessment" paper commissioned by the G8 during the Summit in L'Aquila. This document will be produced in May and will point towards what the G8 in particular can deliver towards the MDGs in terms of aid, trade, technical transfer etc. In this case the issue of armed violence and its interrelation with the MDGs can be raised at a regional level, showing regional, national and local armed violence patterns impacting on the development of the region.

MDG Summit: Finally Member States and observers will be able to provide final input into the MDG Summit outcome document during the High-Level Plenary Meeting and during the specific round-tables. This will be the final opportunity to raise the question of armed violence before the final drafting of the outcome report. However we should not wait until the MDG Summit to raise this question.

A CALL TO ACTION ⁶¹

With governments

- Follow up with your country to ensure that they will report and give inputs in the MDG Review Process through the various meetings and reports listed above.
- Inform us on your country position regarding the interrelation between armed violence and development.
- Ensure high-level attendance of your country in the MDG Summit in September.

With other NGOs and civil society organizations

- Follow up with development NGOs to ensure that armed violence will be among the topics discussed with the President of the GA during the Informal Interactive Hearings.
- Apply to participate in the Informal Interactive Meetings or liaise with other NGOs participating on the content of the meeting.
- Contact NGO coalitions in your country and region for engaging the MDG processes, including preparation for the MDG Review Summit.
- Take action through the UN Millennium Campaign: <http://www.endpoverty2015.org> and the Global Call to Action Against Poverty: <http://www.whiteband.org/> to join in with other NGOs in support of the Millennium Development Goals. Through these actions you will be able to increase public knowledge of the interrelation between armed violence and development.

51. For information concerning the relation between AV and the MDGs as well as the impact of armed violence on each MDG, please refer to the policy paper on this issue: "The Millennium Development Goals: Threatened by Armed Violence, Briefing paper, Oslo Conference on Armed Violence: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals". Please also refer to the UN SG Report on Armed Violence and Development for further information on the interrelation between AV and Development: UN SG Report "Promoting development through the reduction and prevention of armed violence", A/64/228, August 2009.

52. More information on the Summit can be found here: www.unngls.org/spip.php?page=amdg10&id_article=1963, visited 25th March 2010.

53. "The composition of the six round-table sessions will be subject to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Thus, for each regional group, the distribution of its members for participation in each round-table session will be as follows: (a) African States: ten Member States; (b) Asian States: ten Member States; (c) Eastern European States: five Member States; (d) Latin American and Caribbean States: seven Member States; (e) Western European and other States: six Member States; (f) Other organizations with observer status in the General Assembly: two representatives; (g) Entities of the United Nations system: four representatives; (h) Civil society and non-governmental organizations: four representatives; (i) Private sector: four representatives". Annex II §7, UN GA Resolution A/RES/64/184, 5 February 2010.

54. The UN SG has suggested as a theme for this 4th roundtable that participants discuss how the international community should address emerging issues that are intimately linked with the achievement of the MDGs such as armed violence and security. "Suggested themes for the round tables: Addressing emerging issues and evolving approaches", Keeping the Promise, UNSG Report, A/64/665, 12 February 2010.

55. Please see Annexes 1 and 2.

56. UN GA Resolution A/RES/64/184, 5 February 2010.

57. For further information on the organization of the Hearings, please refer to Annex III, UN GA Resolution A/RES/64/184, 5 February 2010.

58. The GA President has recently formed a 'Task Force' of representatives of civil society and the private sector to advise him on the format and participation at the Hearings.

59. The report can be downloaded here: www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/665

60. "Emerging issues and challenges: Intensifying prevention of violence and responses to humanitarian crises", Keeping the Promise, UNSG Report, A/64/665, 12 February 2010.

61. If you need further details on concrete actions to take with your country, please contact Serena Olgati at Action on Armed Violence: solgiati@aov.org.uk

CONCLUSION

The incidence and impacts of armed violence constitute a fundamental challenge to our common humanitarian and development aims. Greater efforts to reduce the incidence and impact of armed violence will be critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Recognition of the linkages between armed violence and development – the nexus of disarmament, development, and security – offers both better progress on core development objectives, and better ways to design development itself. Resources will be needed to support such progress, including official development assistance.

Building stronger systems to collect and analyse data on armed violence is a crucial step in taking responsibility for the problem, for understanding where, how and why it happens, and for creating more effective programmes in armed violence reduction and prevention.

Reducing and preventing the incidence of armed violence must be complemented by reduction and remediation in its impacts. This requires holistic assistance to victims and survivors – individuals, their families and their communities. It requires assistance that addresses not only physical injury and disability, but also psychosocial effects including broad forms of social and economic exclusion.

ANNEX 1: CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN RUN-UP TO THE MDG SUMMIT

Key to event participants:

Civil Society	States
IOs	States / CS / IOs

Month/Date	Title	Description
Ongoing	Regional Consultations	Regional consultations on the MDGs
	Open Consultations	The President of the GA is holding open consultations with member states
	Country Reports	States can present a country report on the status of the MDGs in their country
March 2010		
16-Mar	"Keeping the Promise"	UN SG Report on the status of the MDGs
End of March	MDG Thematic Papers	Finalization of UNDG papers that attempt at completing the UN SG report
April 2010		
16-Apr	Hearings Speakers	Deadline to nominate potential speakers for the Informal Interactive Hearings
21-22 Apr	Oslo Conference on AV and MDGs	Norway invites states to discuss the interrelation between AV and MDGs
TBC	UNDP Summary Report	UNDP will produce a first summary of the MDG Progress Report
TBC	Consultations on UN SG report	The UN Non- Governmental Liaison Office will consult with NGOs on the UN SG report "Keeping the Promise"
May 2010		
7-May	Deadline consultations on UN SG Report	Deadline to submit comments and views on the UN SG Report.
TBC	G8 "Needs Assessment" Paper	GB member states will input into the "Needs Assessment" paper

Month/Date	Title	Description
June 2010		
14-15 June	Informal Interactive Hearings	Informal Hearings on the MDG Summit between the President of the GA and civil society
July 2010		
TBC	MDG Progress Report	UNDP will publish the full MDG Progress Report
TBC	Development Cooperation Forum	The 2nd DCF will take place in Geneva
August 2010		
30 Aug - 1 Sept	"Advance Global Health: Achieve the MDGs"	The 63rd Annual Conference between DPI and NGOs will be held in Melbourne
September 2010		
TBC	MDG Gap Task Force Report	The Gap Task Force Report will be published
17-19 Sept	"Stand Up and Take Action"	The "End Poverty Campaign" will organize 2 days of action to ask member states to deliver breakthrough plans during the MDG Summit
20-22 Sept	UN GA High-Level Plenary Meeting	The MDG Summit takes place at the UN Headquarter in UN GA High-Level Plenary Meeting New York

ANNEX 2: USEFUL LINKS

Oslo High-Level Conference on Armed Violence:

www.osloconferencearmedviolence.no

UN Millennium Campaign:

www.un-ngls.org

End Poverty Campaign:

www.endpoverty2015.org

Global Call to Action Against Poverty:

www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2010/mdg-review

Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence:

www.genevadeclaration.org

UN GA 65th Session:

www.un.org/ga/65/index.shtml

UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service:

www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?page=sommaire

UN Civil Society Network:

esango.un.org/irene/index.html

UN Development Group:

www.undg-policynet.org

UNDP:

www.undp.org/mdg

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