

# PEACE BUILDING: TWELVE DYNAMICS

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter looks at 12 of the dynamics shaping the frontiers of peace building today. As practitioners and policy-makers often focus on specific areas, the purpose here is to assess a number of broader dynamics as part of the overall picture created as a result of the work being done by a wide range of actors in the field. We will see how the broad dynamics of peace building combine with concrete and specific ground-level details, resulting in an area that is developing rapidly in important and necessary ways.

## TWELVE DYNAMICS

### 1. Growing, broadening, expanding

The field of peace building has grown significantly over the past 20 years and is continuing to broaden and expand as more organisations from all over the world are involved. It has become a global field, transcending an earlier preponderance towards institutions and initiatives based in Western Europe and North America. There is a broader range of actors: governments, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs, local authorities, think tanks, media and artists – with important steps and contributions coming from each. There is also engagement on a broader range of issues: mediation, early warning and prevention, civilian peacekeeping, post-war recovery, reconcilia-

tion and healing, gender and peace building, peace journalism, peace education, building peace infrastructure, and much more.

### 2. Improving methodologies

The first dynamic is combined with a second: a gradual but significant improving of methodologies and approaches. However it would take more space than we have here to list all the major groundbreaking pioneering work and development of the last few years. Some institutions, such as the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), Collaborative for Development Action (CDA), the Department of Peace Operations at PATRIR<sup>1</sup>, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), and many different local and regional networks of practitioners and organisations working in their communities, nationally and internationally, are at the forefront of this. Some publications highlight these well:

- The Reflecting on Peace Practice project of the Collaborative for Development Action ([www.cdainc.com](http://www.cdainc.com)), and Mary B. Anderson and Lara Olson's *Confronting War: Critical Lessons for Peace Practitioners*, CDA, 2003. The CDA's major contributions include systematically drawing together lessons from practitioners and organisations in the field and engendering greater reflec-

tion and strategic thinking. Their work is seminal. Exciting current developments focus on cumulative impact assessments; peace building is not the result of any single engagement or intervention but comes about as a result of the cumulative impact of work done at many levels. Cumulative Impact Assessments map these different interventions and identify major areas of engagement that help to enable meaningful and lasting transformation of conflicts.

- Luc Reyhler and Thania Paffenholz (Eds), *Peace Building: A Field Guide*<sup>2</sup>, together with John Paul Lederach and Janice Moomaw Jenner (Eds), *A Handbook of International Peace building: Into the Eye of the Storm* (2002) should be basic reading for any practitioner and give a good overview of experiences gained. John Paul's work on Theories of Change – making organisations conscious of the assumptions and 'logic' underlying their engagements, together with the work of Search for Common Ground and its Designing for Results, and the CDA's own work on Theories of Change, pioneer this work further, improving professional reflection and programme and intervention design.
- Chester A. Crocker, Fen Olsen Hampson and Pamela Aall (Eds), *Herdin*g Cats: Mul-

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<sup>1</sup> The Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania.

<sup>2</sup> Luc Reyhler and Thania Paffenholz (2001), *Peace-Building: A Field Guide*, Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

*tiparty Mediation in a Complex World* (2001), together with other publications from the United States Institute for Peace (USIP) provide an impressive overview of mediation experiences.

- David Nyheims, *Can Violence, War and State Collapse be Prevented? The Future of Operational Conflict Early Warning and Response Systems*, OECD-DAC, Paris (2008) is perhaps one of the most concise, brilliant and useful overviews of the state of early warning.
- The 'UN Peace-building Portal' ([www.peacebuildingportal.org](http://www.peacebuildingportal.org)) and Peacemaking Data Bank ([www.peacemaker.unlb.org](http://www.peacemaker.unlb.org)) websites are early steps towards online portals for knowledge, lessons identified and experiences gained in the field.

The increasing number of programmes – and the quality of programmes – being implemented by organisations, agencies and governments in the field are also very important, and again, OECD-DAC is doing vital and pioneering work at the level of conceptualisation, paradigm and policy development. Gaps remain and are significant, but we are learning from and studying practical experiences in the field, and applying them in a way that has not been done before, systematically and comprehensively. It is part of the maturation and evolution of peace building. We're looking at what's being done at every different level and trying to learn from those experiences. And this – slowly

– is leading to a greater depth and capacity, and an improvement in methodologies, policy and practice.

### 3. Development of peace-building policies

This feeds into the third major dynamic: the creation of coherent government policies for peace building, crisis prevention and post-war recovery, as well as integrating peace building into other related policy fields, which includes development, human rights, democratisation and gender. In reality there is a major gap between policy and implementation, particularly when seen from a 'whole of government' approach. Overemphasis on what's missing, however, can sometimes make us miss what's developing. Over the past 10 years an increasing number of governments have taken steps in which they identify peace building, violence prevention and post-war recovery as policy objectives. Clear policies, strategies and doctrines for how governments can engage in peace building, as well as how they can support regional and international organisations and civil society, are evolving. Some good examples include:

- UK: DFID, *Preventing Violent Conflict*, 2006; HM Government, *Public Service Agreement – Delivery Agreement 30 to Reduce the impact of conflict through enhanced UK and international efforts*, October 2007; *Investing in Prevention*, A Prime Minister's Strategy Unit Report to the UK Government, February 2005.

- GERMANY: *Sector strategy for crisis prevention, conflict transformation and peace-building in German development cooperation: Strategy for Peace-building*, June 2005.

- SWEDEN: *Preventing Violent Conflict – Swedish Policy for the 21st Century*, 2001.

Again, many more could be listed but these are cited as clear policy and strategy papers showing deep understanding of needs and developments in the field, combined with practical and progressive proposals linked with their governments' significant operational and financial support for peace building. At the regional and global level, the United Nations, the EU, the African Union, the Organization of American States, ASEAN, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the OSCE and OECD are all developing or have developed policy and strategy papers, guidance notes and operational toolkits for violence prevention, peace building and working with conflict.

### 4. Peace infrastructure

To be operational, policy needs to be linked with the institutional capacities and resources to enable effective implementation. 'Infrastructure' refers to physical and organisational structures needed for the functioning and operation of a society or a field. Roads, water supply systems, sewers, telecommunications, schools, hospitals, government buildings, irrigation systems are

all infrastructure. In every field of human activity we have developed infrastructure to enhance and develop operational capacity and effectiveness. Here are two practical examples:

(1) Medicine/health: In the field of medicine and health our 'infrastructure' and 'health systems' include:

- (i) health education in schools;
- (ii) specialised training for all medical health professionals – with doctors on average receiving five to eight years of specialised training and between one and three years practice as residents;
- (iii) the physical buildings of hospitals and pharmacies and all they need to function;
- (iv) government infrastructure, from local authorities to national-level departments and ministries of health;
- (v) global infrastructure including the World Health Organisation, as well as
- (vi) national and international civil society organisations, such as health clinics, Médecines sans Frontières;
- (vii) infrastructure for rapid response capacity, including ambulances, airlift

and specifically trained personnel permanently available and ready to respond;

- (viii) research and investment;
- (ix) monitoring and analysis of health issues to improve service;
- (x) centres for disease control;
- (xi) local, national and international medical conferences;
- (xii) knowledge management systems linking what is learned and developed in medical practice with the training and professional development of medical practitioners, and much, much more.

Prevention is emphasised, and efforts are made to 'streamline' and effectively integrate health throughout society; the urban design of cities is influenced by what we've learned in health and medicine, while architecture, ergonomics and even business management all increasingly draw on what is learned and known in medicine and health. In reality, people still die, but it would be far fetched to imagine an argument as intellectually ridiculous and unpractical as: 'Why should we study or invest in health, it's human nature to die?' For conflicts and peace building, our intelligence and reasoned thinking has not evolved as far, and

is more similar to the approach to medicine taken in Europe in the 14th century. The argument 'Why should we invest in peace studies and peace building? War is part of human nature' is still frequently heard. Falling sick and dying are also part of human nature and our biological organism. We make the reasoned decision to invest in health because we recognise it is responsible and required to address those very challenges which face us. We also recognise that to move from aspiration (we want to be healthy and avoid sickness) to implementation and realisation, we need vision, mandate, policies, strategies, infrastructure, operations, tools and instruments, trained personnel, and the development of a culture and practice of medicine and health. The same is true for peace building.

(2) Another clear and relevant example is the military. 'All building and permanent installations necessary for the support, re-deployment and military operations (e.g. barracks, headquarters, airfields, communications, facilities, stores, port installations, and maintenance stations)<sup>3</sup> are part of military infrastructure. This also includes permanent training facilities, standing forces, financial resources and investment, research into weapon systems and weapon system development, government infrastructure (e.g. Ministries of War/Defence) and the development of vision, strategy, doctrine, operations and tactics, and the instruments

<sup>3</sup> [www.wikipedia.ro \(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infrastructure\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infrastructure)

and resources needed both for the waging of war and military operations, and the maintenance of large-scale, permanent, standing military capacity.

Medical systems, ambulances and cardio units are not built the moment someone is having a heart attack. Armies are not established when war breaks out. Professional major league sports teams are not recruited and put together the day the game is played, and schools are not established and set-up the day students arrive for class. Societies have learned from experience and make long-term, necessary investments into building institutional and human resource capacities and infrastructure, combined with cultural/social legitimisation and support. The same is beginning to happen – and is essential – for peace building, if we want to move from small-scale, ad hoc, one-off, sporadic and largely unsuccessful interventions and engagements, to enabling effective peace building and transformation of conflicts.

Some of this developing peace infrastructure includes:

- UN: Peace-building Commission, Peace Support Office, Mediation Support Unit, Joint UNDP-DPA programme for strengthening government capacities for conflict resolution and UNDP's Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Recovery
- EU: DG Relex, Crisis Room, Situation Centre, Peace-building Partnership
- **Regional Organisations & the Commonwealth:** Mediation & Good Offices Sections
- **Governments:** Ministries and Departments of Peace, All-Party Parliamentary Working Groups (APPGs), Peace-building, Reconciliation & Crisis Prevention Units
- **Peace Secretariats & Commissioners:** Philippines, Sri Lanka, Germany
- Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace
- Civil Peace Services and Nonviolent Peaceforce
- European Peace-building Liaison Office – EPLO
- Early Warning and Violence Prevention Systems
- Peace Education in Schools, and Degree and Graduate Study Programmes in Peace building
- Training Academies such as the International Peace and Development Training Centre (IPDTC), Folke Bernadotte Academy, ZIF, ASPR, Forum ZFD
- Community-based Mediation Units and Peace Teams
- Peace media

Additionally, the multiple and varied mechanisms for managing and addressing conflicts effectively, through peaceful means, within our societies are part of this evolving but often not clearly mapped and identified 'peace infrastructure'. In the coming years, putting in place and developing the necessary institutional capacities and resources – and the actual institutions and architecture/infrastructure for peace building itself – will be one of the most important developments for preventing the outbreak of war and armed conflict, and addressing and resolving them more effectively when they do occur. It can also be reassuring to note that institutions and infrastructure/capacities such as hospitals, medical training programmes, medical research centres, staff training colleges, military general staffs, and most of what are considered the backbone and foundations of modern medical and military systems, are – on the scale we know them today – developments of the last two centuries, and, in particular, the last 70 years. Peace building is at an early stage in the development of local, national and global peace infrastructure in their modern form, but is developing rapidly. Policy-makers and practitioners, from having focused on responding to crisis and dealing with the continual outbreak of different conflicts, are increasingly recognising the need to enhance and improve systematic, standing and effective capacities for peace building.

## 5. Conflict intelligence

For policy, infrastructure and operations to be effective in implementation, good conflict intelligence is an essential component. This means that there must be a link between understanding conflict dynamics, root causes, proximate environment, drivers, and the full spectrum of operational conflict analysis and the understanding, design and development of appropriate and effective policy options, engagement strategies and operational implementation. Coined by the Department of Peace Operations at PATRIR, conflict intelligence is the linking of conflict analysis and understanding with strategic and operational response and implementation of interventions/engagement to address the conflict.

In the last ten years, tools and methodologies for conflict analysis have developed substantially.<sup>4 5</sup> However, far too little has been done to systematically review and compare these different methodologies to identify strengths and gaps, and connect their methodologies with the actual needs of policy-makers and practitioners in conflict situations.

In practice today there is little or no linking between effective knowledge, understanding and analysis of conflicts and

planning on how to intervene, and the design of the intervention and policies. Most governments, agencies and organisations lack appropriate methodologies and processes for conflict intelligence. Improving this intelligence is essential to improving the effectiveness, quality and relevance of peace-building engagements and strategies to address conflicts and is a key development need for the field. The Department of Peace Operations Quick Reference Guides, the Clingendael Institute's Conflict Policy Analysis Frameworks, DFID's Guidance Note on Strategic Conflict Analysis, and the UK Prime Minister's Strategy Unit Investing in Prevention are all steps to link conflict analysis more effectively with the development and design of policies and operational implementation. They are very new and have not yet had a significant impact on operations and practice, but they show the direction the field is moving in. This is relevant and much needed. Policies that were adopted, for example for Kosovo, Somalia, Rwanda or Afghanistan, showed in many cases a complete absence of effective analysis and understanding of the conflict situation and dynamics in those areas, and policies and operations were adopted which often had negative impacts. The impact of poorly designed interventions and strategies based

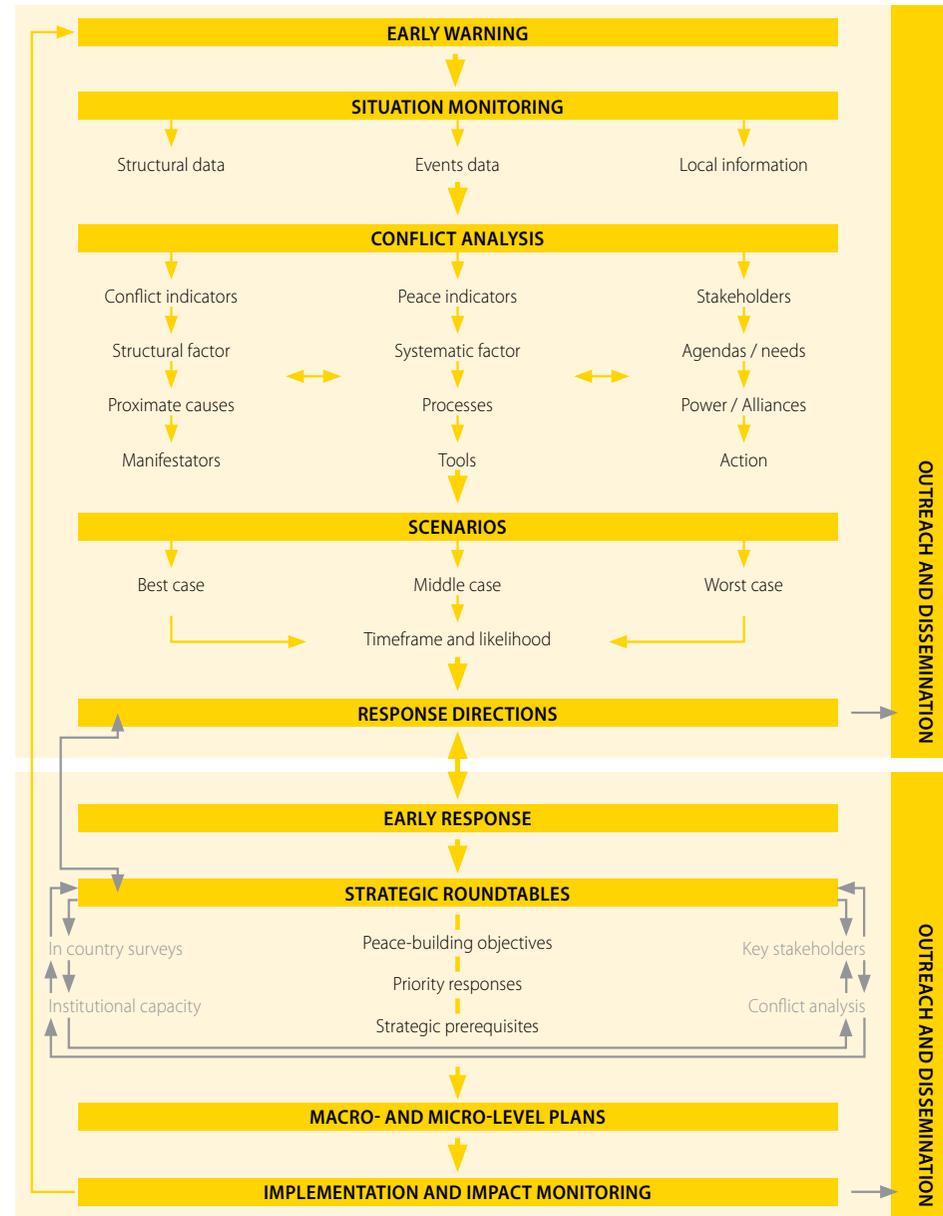
upon poor conflict analysis and understanding can be significant and often severe. Poor conflict intelligence hampers the work of almost all organisations and practitioners working in the field. While it is one of the weakest areas of peace building today, the rapid and significant improvement in the quality of conflict analysis, mapping and understanding is one of the most dynamic areas of development in the field during the last decade. Linking this with design, development and implementation of country and programme strategies, policies and operations – in a way that those working on the ground in peace building can actually use and is operational, applicable and useful – is an important next step.

## 6. Early warning and effective prevention

A major development in the last 20 years has been the rise and improvement of early warning capacity, and the gradual linking of this with effective responses and prevention. We have some very well developed tools and systems and know how to monitor conflicts to be able to know where and how they gradually escalate over time towards violence. A standard model for an early warning system is presented in David Nyheim's brilliant report for the OECD-DAC.<sup>6</sup> See Table 1.

4 For a listing of major conflict analysis tools and methodologies developed by a range of organisations and agencies in the field today see the Department of Peace Operations Quick Reference Guide, p. 8.  
5 Some of these titles include the DFID's Conflict Assessments, the USAID's *Conflict Vulnerability Index*, UNDESA's *Developing Capacity for Conflict Analysis and Early Response*, Responding to Conflict's 'Working with Conflict: Skills and Strategies for Action' conflict analysis sections (*Working with Conflict: Skills and Strategies for Action*, September 2000), Clingendael's Conflict and Policy Assessment Framework (Suzanne Versteegen and Luc van de Goor, *Conflict and Policy Assessment Framework*, summer 2000), the World Bank's *Conflict Analysis Framework* (The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, Conflict Analysis Framework, Social Development Department, 21 June 2006), the CPR Network's *Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) Handbook* (September 2005) and *Early Warning and Early Response Handbook*, the Collaborative for Development Action's *Do No Harm* methodology, Swiss Peace's *FAST Methodology for Early Warning*, Mary Anderson, *Do No Harm: How Aid can Support Peace – or War*, Collaborative for Development Action (CDA).  
6 David Nyheim, *Can Violence, War and State Collapse be Prevented? The Future of Operational Conflict Early Warning and Response Systems*, OECD-DAC, 18 May 2008.

**Table 1: Early warning systems in practice**



The very real possibility of war in Georgia in August 2008 was obvious several months before the outbreak. Its roots and the structural factors and interventions creating the context and conditions in which it would happen were evident for even longer. The very probable and real possibility of the breakdown of the peace process in Sri Lanka could have been seen at least four years ahead of the renewed outbreak of fighting. In 2004, and again in 2007, discussions were held in Nairobi on the obvious potential for violence around the elections, based upon what was already clearly evident in the country at that time. The tools, knowledge and capacity to monitor conflicts and identify them before they become violent do exist. David Nyheim’s report also shows current and former initiatives for early warning systems in Africa, Asia and Europe, and what can be learned from them. Many of them are limited and poorly invested in, often lacking direct links with standing/existing and effective response and prevention capacities. But they show us that if we make the choice we have the knowledge and capacity to develop effective early warning and prevention systems.

The link with prevention and the institutions and capacity to address conflicts effectively is an essential and often missing component of previous early warning systems. You can be warned that you’re about to have a heart attack with a pacemaker, but we need people trained in how you respond to cardiac arrest and hospitals that

can help if we want to transform ‘helping that person’ to ‘saving their life’. Ideally, early warning should be like turning on a light bulb. The early warning is flicking the switch; the response is the light coming on. However, if we want the light to switch on we first need to invent the light bulb and put wiring in place. Standing institutional capacity, human resources, effective and clear policies and strategies, and a culture of prevention and peace building are essential components of effective early warning and prevention. The following shows the evolution through five generations of early warning systems:

- First generation: Headquarter-based in the North – the Western developed world (mid to late 1990s to today)
- Second generation: Stronger link to the field (2000 onwards)
- Third generation: Based in conflict areas (2004 to today)
- Fourth generation: Combining with local response capacity – integrated early warning and establishment of peace committees, peace teams and institutional capacities to address conflicts (2004 to today)
- Fifth generation: Early warning systems linked with comprehensive ongoing conflict monitoring systems integrated with well developed local, national, regional

and international peace-building infrastructure and capacities for peace building and conflict transformation (to be developed).

We have put people on the moon; we have cured people of diseases once thought to be fatal; we deal daily with challenges and complexities of an astounding scale. Early warning and prevention is possible, but we need to make the investment, the commitment and the effort to make it operational and effective.

### **7. Improved training and professional development**

If we look at the number of training organisations internationally and the number of training programmes running annually from the 1950s until today there has been a very steep rise in the last 15 years. Notably the number and broader range of people taking these programmes are also increasing: senior government officials, civil servants, aid and development practitioners and policy-makers, UN staff and staff of national and international organisations, journalists and media professionals, teachers, current and former combatants and military personnel, mediators and many more. Programmes range from core/generic to highly specialised and advanced.

The same is happening with university-based peace studies – the number of degree programmes offered today by universities worldwide is increasing, although serious

focus needs to be placed on improving quality and relevance. An essential ingredient of good programmes is a close link with practical experience and operations in the field, and the development of strategy and doctrine/thinking at the operational and policy levels. The overwhelming majority of peace study programmes do not have this. Those who graduate should have knowledge, skills and capacities to do peace building in practice. Imagine programmes to train doctors, pilots or architects which would graduate people with extremely limited theoretical/conceptual knowledge, and no or few skills and ability to do their chosen profession in practice. In the same way a pilot is trained extensively in the knowledge and practice of flying a plane, professionals, policy-makers, and practitioners in peace building and working with conflict, and the programmes which train and educate them, need to be more responsive and directly linked with the needs and realities in the field, training people in the skills, knowledge and capacities which can help to address the problems. Working with conflicts and preventing, stopping or assisting in recovering from the visible and invisible impacts and effects of war and violence are immeasurably more complicated, difficult and challenging than other professions, yet the training and preparation of those working in the field is overwhelmingly more superficial and shallow.

Medical and legal studies are good models. Both are knowledge intensive, while also training their graduates for operational ef-

fectiveness – to be able to actually do the work. Increasingly, training academies, such as those of International Alert and Forum ZFD, and the International Peace and Development Training Centre (IPDTC), are linking together, and linking with organisations and agencies – state and non-state – which are deploying people to the field to improve the depth and quality of their training and preparation for working in the field. An important aspect of this is mapping the competencies which people actually need when they are carrying out this work and seeing how to effectively train, prepare and assess them in these. The European Group on Training (EGT) was also an important initiative to consolidate and develop knowledge and experience of academies providing training for government officials in peace building, conflict transformation and crisis management and prevention. As these programmes become increasingly linked with operational knowledge and lessons learned, their conceptual/knowledge content and operational/practical training is improved, and as more and more people go through them, this is and will increasingly impact the quality and skills of those working in the field – leading to improved peace building in policy and practice.

Realism is needed though. Two-day, five-day or one-month training programmes are not enough. Surgeons, architects or scientists do not learn their fields in a short time. While a great deal can be learned in a very short period, overreliance on short-term

programmes and lack of real understanding and respect for the breadth and depth of peace building leads to high numbers of poorly/partially trained practitioners overly reliant on limited methodologies and approaches, and not able to act effectively in context. While many of the best practitioners have not actually gone through training programmes – but have found other ways to train and develop their knowledge, including through constant practice and in-depth reflection and assessment – on the whole a more respectful, serious and realistic approach needs to be taken to skills and professional development.

#### **8. Improved funding**

While every experienced practitioner, policy-maker, and organisation and agency in the field recognises there is a need for much more, the last 20 years have seen a marked improvement in funding for the field. Still, many major organisations face, almost weekly or monthly, potential bankruptcy or low funds and constantly need to raise minimal resources to do essential work. Military budgets are astronomical but investment for peace building remains far below what is necessary. Governments, the EU and the UN, however, together with private donors and foundations, are giving considerably more support than in the past 20 years. A key task now will be to systematically review, evaluate and assess the lessons and experiences learned from donor support to improve quality and effectiveness. The Utstein Report of the British, German, Norwegian and

Dutch governments was an important step. Extensive evaluations have been done on a country-by-country basis and of individual donor programmes. What has not yet been carried out is a more thorough, cross-country, cross-donor comparative assessment, engaging donors, practitioners and policy-makers in learning lessons and identifying how funding can be done more effectively to support peace building in practice, so as to increase quantity and improve quality. In the Progress Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Prevention of Armed Conflict, the then Secretary-General of the UN, Kofi Annan, called upon all member states to improve infrastructure and architecture for peace building, to improve coordination and cooperation amongst the different agencies and actors in the field, and to improve the quality and scale of funding for peace building.

#### **9. Improved networking and cooperation**

There have been considerable improvements in networking and cooperation. The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) has played a major role in this, both worldwide and with its regional platforms. Across Asia, practitioners are increasingly linking together in the Asian Peacebuilders Forums. In many countries, national platforms linking organisations and/or practitioners have been established. The European Network of Civil Peace Services effectively links both existing peace services and national initiatives to

establish professionally trained civil peace services across Europe, helping the organisations involved to learn from each other's work and experience. There are also specific associations for trainers, mediators, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) experts, those working on gender, peace building and 1325<sup>7</sup>, organisations working to impact on government policy, researchers and academics, and many different sub-sections of the field. Anyone working anywhere in the world who has access to the Internet can link together on the Peace and Collaborative Development Network established by Craig Zelizer<sup>8</sup>. And those working in the broad field of peace building are also improving collaboration, exchange and cross-fertilisation with other fields, with those working in development, gender, human rights, democratisation, security and media. Increasingly, cooperation is also happening across sectors – state and non-state, the UN, governments and non-governmental organisations.

#### 10. A collaborative field

Increasingly, peace building is becoming a collaborative field. Organisations, agencies, practitioners, scholars and the broad spectrum of those involved are working much more together. From the 1950s until today, there were many 'geniuses', 'giants' and 'gurus' who did incredible pioneering work, and many people looked to them as if they were gods on mountains. They were

seen as the sources of all knowledge for anything to do with peace work. Today we are building on the pioneering work they have done, and growing further – we can all learn from and with each other. There isn't one genius in medicine, there's a field. There isn't one genius in science, there's a field. Anyone who works in peace building and looks to a single teacher/method/organisation is dramatically limiting their understanding of what peace building is. Instead, an increasingly mature, creative, committed and collaborative field is developing, with perhaps greater respect and humility for the scale of the challenges we face, and a deeper willingness and commitment to truly build and work together.

#### 11. Lessons identified/learned

At the heart of the evolution of peace building and one of the most important dynamics of the field today is learning from experience. This is a complex and challenging task. So much is being carried out around the world that a great deal of experience is never reflected upon or learned. In the same way that thousands of medical operations are conducted, and even though a great deal of experience is lost, an awesome amount is gathered and transferred back into reflection in the field, and training and education of existing and new practitioners. Peace building needs to do the same. Unfortunately, a huge amount of bad practice and programmes, activities and in-

terventions are carried out with extremely limited and sometimes negative impacts and effects, because the field as a whole is too sporadic, ad hoc and does not learn from what has been done before, what has been done elsewhere, and what others are doing. The last ten years, however, has seen the most significant advance and maturation of the field so far, and the studies and publications cited at the beginning of this chapter are examples of efforts to systematically gather and learn from experiences. Governments, policy-makers and practitioners need to all understand the importance of this, and that space, time and resources need to be committed to it.

#### 12. Streamlining and coherence: intrinsic peace building

A 12th dynamic represents one of the most important evolutions and developments in the field. This is the transition from intervention-based/dependent peace building and conflict transformation to intrinsic and systemic or streamlined peace building. Intervention-based approaches are when local, national or external NGOs carry out specific programmes for peace education in schools or train teachers for peace education, or interventions for justice or policing reform, or advocacy for governments to adopt more peace-building-based approaches to conflicts. These are time-bound (often framed as projects), carried out by actors/organisations/agents external to a sec-

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/>

tor or system trying to impact upon it. The importance and need for this is significant and will remain. Intrinsic or streamlined peace building, however, is when the sectors/systems have integrated and included peace-building approaches and capacities into their basic knowledge, doctrine and operating cultures, systems and practices. For example, when education systems include peace education as part of their core curriculum and pedagogy; when all teachers are trained in peace education as part of the teacher training system; when court, legal and police systems have peace building, restorative justice and effective, constructive approaches to addressing conflicts built into them; and when governments have standing, institutionalised peace-building capacities and clear, coherent peace-building strategies and policies, along with the political commitment and practice to use them.

#### Plus one

A final dynamic is the growing rejection of war and violence as an acceptable/legitimate means of addressing conflicts; from local communities in war and violence-affected contexts around the world to the global demonstrations of millions of people against the war on Iraq. Politicians, policy- and decision-makers, doctors, academics, military officers and soldiers, journalists, students, artists – people from all backgrounds and walks of life – are increasingly recognising that violence – and the massive investment in military and war systems – produces incredible devastation, destruction and misuse

of human resources, intelligence, capacities and life. We are recognising that it is not enough to wish or demonstrate for peace.

#### CONCLUSION

This article has tried to show some of the key dynamics happening in the field today. It has also shown how some of the essential building blocks for peace building are steps we've taken in many other fields of human activity – from agriculture to sports, science, medicine, the arts and the military – but have not yet taken for the often more complex and difficult tasks of peace building, violence prevention and post-war recovery. A political and practical paradigm shift is taking place. The doctrine and guiding philosophy that 'if we wish for peace, prepare for war' is increasingly recognised for what it is: a futile and ineffective doctrine that leads to increasing war and violence. It is being replaced instead with a more realistic understanding that 'if we wish for peace, we need to prepare and act for peace, making the necessary commitments and efforts to make it realistic and effective'.

Gaps and challenges remain, including in intelligence, doctrine and policy, strategies, mandates, personnel, resources, competencies, coherence, relevance, accountability and responsibility, and the excessive militarism and reliance upon military responses and military preparation, which have time and again proved ineffective or counter-effective. These are issues that need to be addressed.

Having reviewed these twelve dynamics, we can ask how is it that wars such as those in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel-Palestine, Darfur and the Congo continue. Everything identified in this article are dynamics and trends, themselves part of the work which has been pioneered for many years and decades but which is beginning to attain new levels. They are, if we look, taking place now. The answer to the question of whether they develop to the point where they can become truly effective – to the point where wars can be transformed and prevented – will be based upon the choices we make.

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