

The 2011 *World Development Report: Conflict, Security, and Development*

The World Bank's 2011 *World Development Report* links the issues of state fragility and conflict and calls for a new approach to these challenges to break repeated cycles of violence.

In the twenty-first century, the predominant forms of conflict have changed, with fewer wars between or within states. New threats from trafficking, terrorism, and violent crime exacerbate state fragility, while local and international stresses, including high levels of youth unemployment, government corruption, and foreign security interference, create the risk of violence on multiple levels.

According to the *World Development Report*, combating these threats requires greater investment in citizen security, justice, and jobs through the creation of more resilient and legitimate institutions. However, institutional transformation requires increased confidence and commitment to the process so that potential spoilers can be turned into invested stakeholders in "inclusive-enough" coalitions. The process also occurs slowly, taking at least a generation for significant change.

The report calls for faster, more flexible international assistance targeted toward increasing the capacity of national institutions. International actors must demonstrate a long-term commitment to institution building and strengthen regional and international collaboration. The report also identifies a number of targeted steps to support sustainable peace, including basic job-creation plans, processes for addressing both national and regional threats concurrently, and quick-impact confidence-building measures.

The *World Development Report* identifies an important role for peacekeepers in helping to establish an enabling environment required for long-term security and justice reform. Peace operations are also often tasked with directly assisting in rebuilding security and justice institutions. While these efforts necessarily extend well beyond the mandate of a peacekeeping operation, peacekeepers can play a critical role in strengthening parties' confidence in and commitment to the political process, as well as in supporting, in the short term, the efforts of other actors to foster good governance and strengthen institutions.

In the report, Ramtane Lamamra, the African Union's Commissioner for Peace and Security, and Alain Le Roy, then-UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, call for creative solutions to today's peacekeeping challenges, including combining long-term security sector assistance programs with lighter monitoring missions and over-the-horizon forces to increase flexibility and enable longer engagements. The expected draw-down of a number of peacekeeping missions, including in Liberia and Timor-Leste, has renewed interest in options for rapidly deployable over-the-horizon forces as an added security guarantee during the particularly vulnerable period of mission transition.

With nearly 1.5 billion people affected by conflict globally, the *World Development Report* predicts increased risks of violence in the future due to climate change and competition over scarce natural resources. The report seeks to catalyze an improved international architecture for responding to these threats in fragile states.