

INTEGRATED **DISARMAMENT,**
DEMOBILIZATION AND
REINTEGRATION STANDARDS

Foreword

The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants and those associated with armed groups is a prerequisite for post-conflict stability and recovery. Of course, there can be no substitute for national leadership and the political commitment of warring parties to disarm and demobilize. But in a peacekeeping environment, a successful DDR programme depends heavily on the ability of the United Nations system to plan, manage and implement a coherent and effective DDR strategy.

As a leading partner in this work, the United Nations is well placed to collate knowledge and to develop common standards. These *Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS)*, along with their accompanying *Operational Guide to the IDDRS* and *DDR Briefing Note for Senior Managers*, draw upon the accumulated experiences, lessons learnt and best practices of the United Nations system. Developed jointly by staff members from peacekeeping missions, UN country teams and headquarters, they provide guidance and operational tools for all aspects of the DDR process. They are also intended to serve as a repository of new knowledge by means of the UN DDR Resource Centre (www.unddr.org).

I introduced the IDDRS in my report to the General Assembly (A/60/705), and this guidance now forms the substantive basis on which Member States engage with and support DDR programmes. The IDDRS have also been formally adopted by all 15 members of the Inter-Agency Working Group on DDR, as well as the United Nations Executive Committee on Peace and Security. This means they are the definitive resource for all our staff working on DDR issues, at every level in headquarters, integrated missions and UN country teams, and will be the reference from which all current and future programmes are planned, implemented and reviewed.

As with all guidance documents, the IDDRS need to be tailored to the specific context of our work; they also need to be updated regularly to reflect the latest lessons and needs. I hope that all colleagues and partners working in this vital area will find the IDDRS a useful tool, and I encourage you to provide feedback and comments so that our knowledge in this evolving field can be expanded continuously.



Kofi A. Annan
United Nations Secretary-General

December 2006

Acknowledgements

The creation of the integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards (IDDRS) was a collective process. A wide-ranging array of actors, from DDR experts, practitioners, academics and policy-makers were involved at every stage of its development.

The Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on DDR¹ would like to thank the numerous staff members from agencies, departments, funds and programmes, at headquarters and in field and country operations, who participated in the development of these standards.

We would furthermore like to thank the following individuals, to whom the IAWG on DDR is indebted for their valuable and generous input and support: the authors of “DDR: A Practical Field and Classroom Guide”, Colin Gleichmann, Michael Odenwald, Kees Steenken and Adrian Wilkinson, whose work provided a basis for parts of the IDDRS; Vanessa Farr, who substantively edited the IDDRS; Jane Carroll and Alex Potter, who copy-edited the IDDRS; Richard Jones, who created the design and typesetting elements for the whole document; and Patricia Keays and Sarah Murchison, who both facilitated the IDDRS simulation exercises.

The IAWG would also like to thank the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS) of the United Nations; the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO); the Government of Canada; the Government of Luxembourg; the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Government of Sierra Leone; the Stockholm Initiative on DDR; the Government of Sweden; the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

Endnotes

- 1 The IAWG is composed of the following UN agencies, funds, departments and programmes: Department of Disarmament Affairs (DDA), Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Department of Political Affairs (DPA), Department of Public Information (DPI), International Labour Organization (ILO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO); and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).