

ANNEX III

Recommendations from the HSN International Symposium on “Building and Synergizing Partnership for Global Human Security and Development” 30-31 May 2006, in Bangkok

Panel Discussions on National, Regional and Global Partnership for Human Security: Roles of Governments, International Organizations, Civil Society, Business and Academic Sectors

Panel 1: National, Regional and Global Partnership to address the threats and challenges to human security from small arms and light weapons, including landmines

The panelists emphasized the importance of responsibilities of and partnerships among governments, the civil society and international organizations at national, regional and global levels in addressing the challenges of small arms and light weapons, including landmines.

The following key points were made:

- The threats from small arms and light weapons and landmines are very real for the people and communities who face them.
- The Ottawa process leading to the adoption of the Mine Ban Treaty in 1997 was an example of partnership, providing an international legal framework based on people-centered approach to address threats to human security. There are clear state responsibilities related to destruction of stockpiles, clearing of minefields and assistance to victims. States should continue their responsibility in partnership with civil society, NGOs and international organizations in turning the Convention into action.
- An inclusive approach by engaging non-state actors, such as armed groups, can complement efforts to tackle the challenges of small arms and light weapons, including landmines, and hence promoting human security. One example is the effort by “Geneva Call” which has been engaging non-state actors in a mechanism called “Deed of Commitment” – a unilateral statement of obligations similar to those in the Ban Mine Convention, which has already been signed by 28 groups. However, the main challenge is the need to build partnership with and gain concrete support from governments and address the conceptual differences that engagement in humanitarian dialogue can go in parallel with dealing with armed groups.
- Small arms and light weapons are the most common weapons around and they are not all traded illegally. Legal trade in weapons also has violent consequences. Hence, in tackling the challenges of small arms and light weapons, it is important to address both illicit and licit weapon trade, as arms licitly transferred could end up in conflict areas. States, whether they be exporting, transit or import countries, should play a role in this regard.
- Currently, there is no network of journalists to promote human security. While journalists report on armed conflicts or armed violence, they still fail to link these issues with human security because of lack of understanding. In order to encourage the media to report more on and give the human face to these issues, efforts need to be made to promote their understanding of human security issues

and their long-term impacts as well as political, economic, social and humanitarian dimensions.

It was emphasized that landmine should be seen as both a humanitarian issue and a development issue, and that the HSN should stress both the humanitarian and development aspects of landmines. Resources and funds dedicated to the clearing of mines should be seen as an investment not a cost. Likewise, assistance to victims of landmines should also be seen as an investment to enable them to contribute to society.

A view was expressed on the need for global principles or international criteria on arms transfer in order to provide minimum criteria on transfers and prevent irresponsible uses as well as black-market or illicit trade. The consideration of such principles could start with the issues of licensing and production control. A view was also expressed on a need for further discussions on efforts towards an arms trade treaty so as to establish a legally binding framework on arms transfer.

Recommendations for consideration by the HSN:

- Build confidence in people-centered approach by setting examples in implementing their obligations under the Mine Ban Convention as well as their obligations under other instruments of international laws;
- Advance the people-centered approach through participation in forums and discussions organized by the UN or international and regional organizations, as well as through bilateral contacts;
- Consider supporting efforts by NGOs in pursuing an alternative complementary mechanism to engage non-state actors in addressing the threats of landmines and other human security challenges;
- Promote dialogue on the issue of arms transfer control at the Review Conference on the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in July 2006;
- Promote greater involvement by the media by promoting understanding among journalists about human security issues, such as landmines, small arms and light weapons as well as their impact on the society as a whole, encouraging them to participate in conference or courses on human security issues, including through providing grants, and introducing human security in journalism curricula;
- Promote awareness among youth regarding the dangers of small arms and light weapons;
- Support the development of global ethical principles, including through harmonization of trade policy, foreign policy and development aid policy, in order to promote the concept of human security in different regions;
- Promote education in the areas of international humanitarian laws with a view to ensuring that international humanitarian laws are respected and enforced.
- Continue consideration on the need for a strong multilateral agreement with strong compliance measures to control the transfers of small arms and light weapons and to transfer resources used in weapon production to development

Panel 2: National, Regional and Global Partnership for Advancing Environment Security, in particular from natural disasters

The panelists highlighted environmental changes, whether natural or manmade, as a human security problem, particularly given the tendency that the impact of such changes will increase. However, the environmental issues are not yet on the agenda of Human Security Network, and their impact on people and communities have not yet been adequately

addressed. Such issues should include climate change, pollution control, fresh water, natural environment as well as natural disaster.

It was emphasized that vulnerability to environmental change does not adhere to a global north-south divide but it will not have equal consequences for everyone, effecting more severely vulnerable people.

The issue of climate change affects human security, particularly in terms of its impact on agriculture and food security. In many parts of the world, particularly in the south and developing countries where population will increase, yields may decline, thereby creating potential food crisis and challenging survival. Climate change is therefore a new national security challenge and may spark conflict. It poses threats, vulnerabilities and risks for human, national, food and health security. It was pointed out that environmental change is a cross-cutting theme of human security, or freedom from hazard is another pillar of human security. In addition, as environmental factors can lead to conflict and have impact on conflict prone areas, the importance of addressing complex emergencies was emphasized.

In addressing environmental problems, emphasis should be put on both natural and manmade factors, although more can be done to tackle manmade causes, part of which has to do with human culture such as over-consumption, overproduction in both developed and developing countries. The nature and eco-system of earth has inherent recycling and the reproductive capacity, which was adversely affected by human activities. In addition, national development goals should be more people-centered and more sustainable, rather than focusing only on economic growth. The Thai panelist emphasized that the international community should search for right models of development such as the “sufficiency economy” philosophy of H.M. the King.

In dealing with disaster management, four steps of action (4Ps) should be taken, namely: 1) planning; 2) prevention; 3) preparedness; and 4) practice.

UNESCO has contributed to promoting human security, particularly through their work on promoting culture of peace and education. As an example, UNESCO has implemented conflict resolution workshops to provide people with basic skills to deal with disputes at all levels, including conflicts in families, land disputes, projects on diplomatic training on good governance to understand interaction between development and human security. UNESCO has also established a forum on ethics for science and technology. UNESCO’s important contribution to tsunami warning system in the Pacific and Indian Ocean was emphasized.

OCHA has supported, through the UN Human Security Trust Fund, projects which aim to provide complete and sustainable development for people, promote partnership with civil society, NGOs and local entities and encourage implementation by them, and stress a broad range of interconnected human security issues, so as to empower people and enable them to maintain their livelihood and dignity. As an example, UN Habitat has implemented a project called “Slum Upgrading” project in Phnom Penh to help people construct roads and sewage, provide informal education to children who cannot go to formal schools, provide vaccination and encourage communities to make their own decisions.

During the discussions, a suggestion was made that 4 key areas should be considered in solving environmental problems, namely, 1) grassroots awareness and educational campaigns to help bring about knowledge and action, as well as, on part of government, political will; 2) international standards, conventions and law enforcement; 3) technology; and 4) economic instruments such as incentives.

Recommendations for consideration by the HSN:

- Promote environmental changes and “freedom from hazard impact” on the broader human security agenda;

- Emphasize efforts to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance capacity-building and coping capabilities of societies faced with environmental degradation and natural hazards, including early warning and post-hazard reconstruction;
- Address manmade causes of environmental degradation and disasters, including the culture of over-consumption and overproduction;
- Encourage communities, organizations and governments to pay more attention to disaster management, particularly the four steps of action (4Ps), namely, planning, prevention, preparedness and practice;
- Encourage networking among governments, groups, organizations, communities to strengthen environmental education, raise public awareness, manage and share knowledge and technologies;
- Consider a framework to facilitate and better coordinate responses and provision of assistance to areas affected by natural disasters;
- Consider developing a framework to enable industries to develop and enter into partnership with businesses in other areas of the world in improving energy efficiency and promoting new and renewable energy sources.

Panel 3: National, Regional and Global Partnership for Advancing Health Security

The panelists discussed the situations of major health concerns, particularly avian influenza and HIV/AIDS, and their wide-ranging impact on human security. They emphasized the need to recognize the threats and take steps to address these concerns, as well as the importance of involving a broad range of actors, including civil society, private sector and the media in these efforts.

Progress has been made to address HIV/AIDS but much more still needs to be done while there are also other competing priorities. HIV/AIDS continues to demand resources and services at all levels of society, weakening economy of the state. It poses challenges to development and stability. It is also associated with migration, human trafficking, drug trafficking and political and armed conflicts.

Recommendations for consideration by the HSN:

- Promote and strengthen cooperation among countries through regular information sharing on the situations, early exchange of information and transparency, as well as sharing of experiences and best practices of national efforts to prevent and address health security problems;
- Support, strengthen and harmonize national preparedness plans and promote efficient joint rapid containment schemes among countries;
- Increase research and development on drugs and vaccines and access by people to these vaccines;
- Address constraints to tackling HIV/AIDS, including improving health systems with better leadership, involvement of agencies concerned and human resources development, and examining resources mobilization, allocation and utilization to ensure that they address the real needs;
- Increase communications with people and strengthen collaboration on surveillance and rapid responses;
- Address such challenges as sustained responses, dynamisms and diversity of epidemics, and coverage of comprehensive prevention and care services;
- Ensure effective prevention and care through leadership at every level, multi-sector collaboration, evidence-based planning and implementation, and implementation of “Three Ones” concept in establishing national framework, national authorities, national monitoring and evaluation;

- Evaluate the issues of migrants' health and promote their access to health care and remove barriers such as culture and language.
- Highlight the importance for all countries and UN agencies concerned to mainstream a human security perspective in all levels of the formation and implementation of policies and plans to address these problems

Discussion on Ways Forward: Possible Ways to Promote Partnerships at the National, Regional and Global Levels.

The participants exchanged views on possible ways forward to promote partnerships at the national, regional and global levels. It was noted that the challenge of addressing human security is the fact that the concept of human security encompasses many aspects of life. It is therefore necessary to consider and be selective on how the Human Security Network can have a value-added.

The participants stressed the importance of inclusiveness, as human security issues are diverse and affect people in each country differently. It is therefore necessary to consider how to bring in more stakeholders, including media, and to expand partnership among governments, civil society, NGOs and international organizations.

Enhancing public awareness, dissemination of information and education on human security issues is also crucial in forwarding the human security agenda, as the discussion on these issues should not limit to diplomats. Education on human security should be made an HSN's agenda. Promoting teaching, research and education on human security will be a long-term investment. One useful example to build upon is Austria's work on human rights education.

While progress has been made, there continues to be a need to focus on implementation which is not simply a matter of foreign policy but should also be integrated into domestic policy. There is a need to identify leadership or focal points in order to move implementation forward. Best practices should be shared to encourage more best practices. This can be done through publishing reports on various human security challenges such as landmines, environment and health, with focused targets and measurement of progress in meeting these challenges.

It was noted that work has been done among the academic – “Promoting Human Security in APEC countries” – which proposes possible indicators to monitor and measure progress of countries in achieving human security goals. It was suggested that HSN members consider such contribution.

Furthermore, it was proposed that the HSN can play an important role in agenda setting in international fora, particularly the UN by using HSN's own successes and linking them with activities with non-members. One example of possible issues is that of complex emergency, particularly in respect of impact of hazards and enhancement of resilience, empowerment and reduction of social vulnerabilities in conflict areas.

In this regard, the participants made the following recommendations for the consideration by HSN members:

1. Strengthen partnership at the cross- and multi-sectoral level among stakeholders at all levels, including

1.1 Consider how HSN can synergize partnership with other networks that have already been developing in international fora on issues of common concerns and interests;

1.2 Consider expanding partnership through existing fora such as APEC or establishing a more inclusive, informal group such as “Friends of Human Security” for discussion and sharing of experiences among interested countries

2. Promote public awareness and education on human security through

2.1 Organizing symposiums that include participants from all sectors – governments, international organizations, civil society, NGOs and academia.

2.2 Improve human security teaching, research and educations, especially at the post-secondary level, including by mainstreaming human security ideas, strengthening existing post-secondary education and promoting networks to build new capacities and partners;

2.3 Make publications on human security from an academic point of view to raise awareness on the human security concept.

2.4 Select to focus on certain issues for each year so as to enable them to see progress and discuss on implementation as well as relate progress to the public.

3. Publish country progress reports on implementation regarding human security issues and compile them into global progress, which address the following key issues: 1) how to focus on specific targets with indicators; 2) how to add value and build upon existing programmes; 3) how to have leadership or national coordinators; 4) how to engage partners; and 5) how to work on programmes.

This can be done by making use of an inventory of programmes with implications on human security, guidance on indicators and targets on the areas which already exist, and human and financial resources and technical support to help analyze, develop and strength human security components in the existing programmes.
