

Foreword

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In the past 15 years, the international community has paid increasing attention to the development of the security sector, recognizing the link between *human development* and *human security*. Security sector reform, and security sector governance in particular, are critical to protect human rights, and reassert civilian control over a state's affairs. For states in transition, security often remains a fragile public good, which needs to be protected by a multi-sectoral strategy that is developed, owned and implemented by national and local stakeholders. These stakeholders include the executive, but also the legislative and judicial branches and civil society. Parliament's active role in oversight and reform of the security sector ensures that such oversight is not just *civilian* in nature, but *democratic* too.

The findings presented in this publication demonstrate that there remains significant potential to increase parliamentary power in general, and democratic security sector oversight in particular, in the Commonwealth of Independent States. A number of parliamentary development activities are critical to effective security sector oversight and promoting human security, for example: establishing dedicated oversight committees; professionalizing standard procedures; making the budget process transparent; integrating a human-rights perspective into legislative practice; strengthening the diversity of views; facilitating public debate on key policy issues; developing parliamentary cooperation with civil society; and, last but not least, increasing expertise and capacities on human security issues, including the gender dimension.

With a view to furthering human security in transition states, we encourage parliamentarians, civil society institutions and international organizations to use the following resources and follow up on the findings and recommendations presented in this publication. UNDP is grateful to the Czech Government for hosting the CIS parliamentary dialogue in Prague, and to the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) for the excellent collaboration and partnership with UNDP on this important topic.



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