



International Task Force  
on Preventive Diplomacy

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## **New Initiatives on Conflict Prevention & Human Security:**

**Proposals for the Establishment of  
an International Panel &  
Parliamentarians Network**

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International Task Force on Preventive Diplomacy

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**International Task Force  
on Preventive Diplomacy**

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**New Initiatives of the  
EastWest Institute's  
International Task Force on  
Preventive Diplomacy:**

Towards an International Panel on  
Conflict Prevention and Human  
Security

Building a Parliamentarians  
Network for Conflict Prevention and  
Human Security

## INTRODUCTION

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An unacceptable gap continues to exist between the international community's rhetoric about conflict prevention and its responsibility to protect people from catastrophic human rights violations, and the reality of its efforts. The shameful record of human misery caused by violent conflict is testimony to the chronic lack of political will to respond collectively to new and emerging threats to peace, including environmental stress, around the world.

The ineffectiveness of many global efforts at preventive diplomacy is evidence that traditional diplomatic approaches, including the use of force, simply may not work in time to stop people from dying. Early and effective political action is lacking in too many cases where there is an awareness of the threat of violent conflict. Furthermore, in crises situations, a lack of effective international response mechanisms added to a lack of political will limit the potential for action. It is time for states and non-state actors to find effective mechanisms outside the realm of traditional diplomacy.

In response to the paucity of strategies and the lack of political will on the part of national governments and the international community, the EastWest Institute (EWI)—which has used its global ‘think and do’ approach to push the frontiers in making the world a safer place—with the financial support of the Swiss and German governments, established a multi-year International Task Force on Preventive Diplomacy (Task Force) in May 2007, as the flagship of its Conflict Prevention Program.

EWI's Task Force is a two-tiered structure, which consists of a Core Group of 16 geographically and institutionally balanced, internationally renowned experts from civil society, academia, the private sector, government and international organizations. The High-Level Advisory Board (composed of Martti Ahtisaari, Sadig Al-Mahdi, Lakhdar Brahimi, Kim Campbell, Jan Eliasson, Gareth Evans, El Hassan bin Talal, and Thorvald Stoltenberg) support the work of the Core Group by lending their advice, public outreach, moral standing, and access to media and decision-makers.

The Task Force seeks to strengthen practical mechanisms to build domestic and international political will to shorten the time between early warning and effective early response to threats of violent conflict. It works to address the cracks in the current conflict prevention architecture; advocates for increased capacity building, mainstreaming and institutionalization of conflict prevention; fosters coherence of ideas and instruments; and advocates for determined and consistent action.

Through its work, the Task Force recognizes that the drive towards new organizing

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principles for preventing deadly conflict has led to a number of prominent and notable milestones over the last fifteen years. These include the 2001 Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Prevention of Armed Conflict, the 2002 report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, the 2004 German Action Plan on Civilian Crisis Prevention, and the 2005 World Summit Document, among others. While this new agenda has succeeded in placing conflict prevention into the lexicon of governments and international institutions, political will and early responses have yet to be fully realized among major states and international organizations so that they may respond consistently and effectively to prevent large-scale deadly violence.

The lack of political will on the part of individual states and the international community, as well as the paucity of strategies, experienced personnel, and financial resources lead many actors to concentrate on actual instead of potential conflicts. While it is imperative to settle and reconcile acute conflict, it is also essential to prevent potential violent conflicts not least with a view to the devastating impact that such conflict has on human suffering, misplaced life opportunities, education, economies, and reconstruction costs. Recent advances made by the member states of the United Nations towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals will in many cases be lost as a result of a failure to prevent violence in fragile societies across the globe. The mere deployment of certain governmental measures such as development assistance without swift, effective, and sustained diplomatic leadership will not stop mass killing. Decision-makers also need to understand the value of prevention from the perspective of national security policy. Otherwise, despite the many conceptual tools that currently exist in the conflict prevention toolbox, violence will continue in many cases, as the killing in the Darfur region of Sudan continues to demonstrate.

Violent conflict will only be transformed towards sustainable peace if all stakeholders work together. The international community, the global public, and all interested and affected parties must work towards removing the incentives for violent conflict by addressing the root sources of tension within and between societies, states, and regions.

In December 2007, the High-Level Advisory Board of the Task Force issued a Declaration (*see page 1*), “Making Conflict Prevention Real”, in which the members call for the establishment of an *International Panel on Conflict Prevention and Human Security* and a *Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention and Human Security* as two key advisory and advocacy mechanisms to raise attention to key policy issues pertaining to stability and peace and new threats and challenges and what action can be taken to prevent them turning violent.

The International Panel on Conflict Prevention and Human Security will work with

national governments, regional and international organizations, and the broader prevention and business communities towards influencing decision-makers to act to prevent violent conflict. The Panel will convene a biennial multi-stakeholder Global Summit on Conflict and Security (*see page 12*) bringing together the traditional security and military communities with business and civil society decision-makers. The summit will be focused on reaching consensus on the key policy issues facing national governments and regional and international organizations in preventing violent conflict and providing stable societies which offer the best chance for sustainable development and enabling environments for business at all levels. During the intervening two years between Global Summits, the Panel will develop a comprehensive set of operational recommendations towards implementing responses to the agreed key issues.

The Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention and Human Security will be directly linked to the Panel and the Global Summit on Conflict and Security and be served by the same secretariat. The network members will provide a leverage point in national parliaments towards the implementation of the recommendations from the Panel and the Global Summit as network members will work to influence legislation and to hold the Executive accountable to act to implement the agreed policy changes. The network will also provide access to the media and to the public, which will in turn create additional channels of pressure on national governments.

Since December, the Task Force has undertaken several encouraging international soundings on the proposals for both initiatives in collaboration with stakeholders from the United Nations, national government representatives, members of parliaments, and international civil society organizations.

Such a comprehensive approach to policy development and change is necessary to influence decision-makers to act over the medium to long term. The UN High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change stated, that the "biggest source of inefficiency in our collective security institutions has simply been an unwillingness to get serious about preventing deadly violence". It is no longer enough to rely on the official decision support machinery to provide timely and well-constructed options for action to decision-makers; to date this has resulted in inaction in responses to threats of instability or violence. National governments and the international community need to be supported by influencers who understand threats and challenges and who are also prepared to collaborate with all stakeholders to provide comprehensive frameworks towards managing violent conflict.

While the proposals contained herein may be read individually, it must be remembered that they are a set of interlinked advisory and advocacy mechanisms that together provide a comprehensive approach to policy development for preventive action in the medium to long term.

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# TASK FORCE DECLARATION

## “MAKING CONFLICT PREVENTION REAL”

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*The Task Force Declaration adopted by the High-Level Advisory Board at the Brussels, December 3 2007 meeting of the Task Force constitutes the culmination of the Task Force’s work in the first year of its existence and provides a clear statement of the intent and the commitment to work towards shortening the time between early warning and early action to prevent violent conflict in the years ahead.*

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We, the High-Level Advisory Board members of the EastWest Institute’s International Task Force on Preventive Diplomacy, call on the international community and the global public to reaffirm the solemn pledges of the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000 and the World Summit Outcome Document of 2005 of our collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level.

In the last decade more than 15 million people have lost their lives to war, 40 million people have been forced to flee their homes and genocide and mass atrocity crimes have again stalked parts of the world. This reality is at complete odds with the international community’s pledge to free our societies from the scourge of violent conflict.

An unacceptable gap continues to exist between the international community’s rhetoric about conflict prevention, and its responsibility to protect people from catastrophic human rights violations, and the reality of its efforts. The shameful record of human misery caused by war is testimony to the chronic lack of political will to respond collectively to new and emerging threats to peace, including environmental stress, around the world.

While the international community has disbursed more than \$20 billion over the past five years on UN peacekeeping measures—which is a modest amount by the standards of global arms expenditures—only a tiny fraction of this is spent on conflict prevention and, in particular, enhancing the UN’s capacity to respond to emerging threats.

The interconnected nature of today’s new threats makes the prevention of violent

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conflict more pressing and evident now. Sustainable peace means freedom from fear and freedom from want and is a moral imperative, an economic necessity, a humanitarian must, and a political obligation for all of us.

## WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

Violent conflict will only be transformed towards sustainable peace if all stakeholders work together. We appeal to the collective conscience of the international community, the global public, and all interested and affected parties to work towards removing the incentives for violent conflict by addressing the root sources of tension within and between societies, states and regions.

These measures need to be underpinned with a stronger commitment to basic values, including gender equality, and to the economic and social development and poverty reduction strategies that nurture political and social institutions that are inclusive and accountable, and that promote the power of collaborative conflict resolution.

Specifically we will work to achieve the following objectives:

- ◆ governments and the international community to properly resource conflict prevention efforts and to, at the very least, implement the UN Secretary General's call for 2 percent of the annual UN peacekeeping budget allocation (i.e. some \$100 million) to conflict prevention, including through enhanced mediation efforts;
- ◆ global and regional intergovernmental organizations, and national governments, to strengthen institutional structures for conflict prevention and resolution;
- ◆ the private sector to promote conflict-sensitive business practices to positively affect the environments in which they operate;
- ◆ the media to intensify its efforts at awareness-raising on conflict prevention, with more reporting on conflict prevention success stories;
- ◆ civil society organizations to promote a global culture of conflict prevention that rejects violence and seeks to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations;
- ◆ governments, the private sector and civil society to, especially by providing employment opportunities, meet the challenge of an exploding global youth population that provokes precarious conditions for millions of youth

worldwide. This situation undermines the possibility of progress in unstable countries and risks destroying the political and social fabric in countries that are currently stable;

and, in order to effectively advance these objectives:

- ♦ the establishment of an International Panel on Conflict Prevention and Human Security, and a Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention and Human Security, as practical advisory and advocacy mechanisms that will focus attention on key policy issues and help shorten the time between early warning and effective early response.

## Endorsed by

### **Martti Ahtisaari** (*Finland*)

Chairman of the Board, Crisis Management Initiative; Former President of Finland

### **Sadig Al-Mahdi** (*Sudan*)

President of Umma Party and Imam of Alansar, Sudan; Former Prime Minister of Sudan

### **Kim Campbell** (*Canada*)

Board member of Club de Madrid; Former Prime Minister of Canada

### **Jan Eliasson** (*Sweden*)

Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Darfur; Former Foreign Minister of Sweden

### **Gareth Evans** (*Australia*)

President and CEO of International Crisis Group; Former Foreign Minister of Australia

### **El Hassan bin Talal** (*Jordan*)

President of the Arab Thought Forum; HRH of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

### **Thorvald Stoltenberg** (*Norway*)

President of the Norwegian Red Cross; Former Minister of Defence and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway

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**TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL  
PANEL ON CONFLICT PREVENTION  
AND HUMAN SECURITY**

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# PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL PANEL ON CONFLICT PREVENTION AND HUMAN SECURITY

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## PROBLEM

In addition to a lack of political will, several recent studies (e.g. the UN High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, and the UN SG 2006 Assessment Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict) note key structural issues which contribute to the problem of inaction for preventing violent conflict, including:

- ◆ Lack of an authoritative information center for research and analysis of threats and a lack of understanding of what comprehensive prevention measures are, their impacts and their costs;
- ◆ Incomplete understanding of how conflict and instability impact countries' core national and international interests (e.g. development; organized crime; energy security) leading to lower priority for investment in preventive actions which help secure these benefits;
- ◆ Lack of effective coordination and information flow and immature mechanisms for implementing coherent cross-government responses to underlying risks and emerging threats using aid, defence, diplomatic, and criminal justice tools;
- ◆ Lack of an effective assessment on prevention capacity and development and a lack of coordination between local, regional, and international levels; and
- ◆ Insufficient resources for prevention efforts tied to a lack of political will with no prevention lobby.

Increasingly, governments in the North and the South become aware of the need to have a better structural approach to conflict prevention and human security issues, including within their own administrative structures. However, their efforts tend to relate to conflicts that have already erupted, with longer-term structural assistance still tending to fall under the rubric of economic aid or development assistance, rather than being treated as a matter of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. For the great bulk of governments, reform of their own preventive response infrastructure is a long way off as a result of limited interest, little capacity and a lack of resources.

In this globalized and interconnected world, the failure of traditional security policy to advance effective responses to violent conflict has led to the realization that

more and better structures and frameworks, alongside far greater resources and capacity, are required to deal with threats of conflict at a stage where they can be prevented.

## PROPOSAL

### **An International Panel on Conflict Prevention and Human Security**

To address the structural and operational deficiencies in preventing violent conflict outlined above, the EastWest Institute's International Task Force on Preventive Diplomacy (Task Force) proposes the creation of an International Panel on Conflict Prevention and Human Security (Panel). Such a panel will work to reframe traditional security policy towards the development of effective early diplomatic and operational alternatives to violence, which strengthen national and international capacities for sustainable and peaceful resolutions of conflict.

The Panel will focus its work on developing understanding, new approaches and capacity to deal with medium and long term threats and new threats and challenges while making recommendations on the measures necessary to meet those challenges, and on the organizational and budgetary requirements to implement the recommendations to improve the situation at the national, regional and international level.

Ultimately, the Panel will work on a higher structural level than other bodies, and in doing so, it will take the large steps necessary to motivate policy makers towards preventive action, building the political will, knowledge and capacity to translate ideas into early responses.

### **THE PANEL'S AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

The aim of the Panel is to become an authoritative focal point for the assessment, operation, and evaluation of global actions to manage the risks of violent conflict.

The Panel will deliver operational recommendations that go towards reframing the current security and conflict debates, and on motivating real responses towards preventive action from policy makers from the outset.

The Panel will focus its work towards national and international policy makers, the broader security and conflict prevention communities and other stakeholders in peacebuilding.

The Panel will be a credible and desirable guide to decision-makers on security policy, and on how it can be improved towards the prevention of violent conflict

where it relates to medium and long term threats, including new threats and challenges.

The Panel will make the case for early action on the part of the international community in case of pending violent conflict, providing evidence of and making recommendations for credible alternatives to the use of force including on geographic and thematic issues.

The Panel will foster structures within the UN and in member states conducive to a holistic security approach and to providing greater organization and budgetary capacity towards preventive measures.

## **ACTIVITIES OF THE PANEL**

The Panel will carry out public and private advocacy in support of changes to the conflict prevention structures, lobby for early preventive action on the part of the international community, and call for the development of effective response mechanisms at all levels.

The Panel will support its advocacy work with the evidence base needed to influence policy and undertake to:

- ◆ Hold a multi-stakeholder, biennial Global Summit on Conflict and Security bringing together the peacebuilding community with the traditional security policy community, including military representatives, to reach consensus and set the agenda on key policy issues during each two-year period;
- ◆ Produce a biennial assessment report on the progress towards consensus recommendations from the Global Summit on Conflict and Security;
- ◆ Design and complete research that makes the case for prevention including producing regular reviews and analyses on specific trends and conflict prevention/resolution interventions and their cost-effectiveness, and, complete forward-looking studies on critical issues of the future on both regional and thematic scenarios; and
- ◆ Continuously evaluate past experiences, what works, and what needs to be invested in, including the collection and dissemination of success stories.

The Panel will apply an inclusive, cross-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder approach to its work.

## **The Human Security Dimension of the Panel**

There are many aspects of human security and human development which do not

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give rise to conflict, real or potential, though they do relate closely to most aspects of peacebuilding and also to human rights. Given the primary focus of the Panel's work on conflict prevention, therefore, the Panel will confine its considerations to those new threats to human security, which are most closely related to conflict prevention. The Panel's reports on conflict prevention will cover the impact of conflict and crisis on human security.

## **PROPOSED PANEL STRUCTURE**

The Panel's members will be a good mix of internationally and regionally known stateswomen and men, and personalities from all layers of society including civil society, the security community, business leaders and senior experts, with the main selection criteria being their network and influence on governments and international institutions.

The Panel will be supported by a Secretariat.

The Panel will have approximately 20-30 members, who will provide authority to the Panel's output.

The Panel will act as a high-level advocacy group and influencer at the national, regional and international level to make the case for reframing the traditional security debate and for global improvements of the conflict prevention architecture. The members will advocate for structural changes, as well as for the creation of political will and greater awareness in all matters conflict prevention and have their names tied to the Panel's reports and other publications.

The term of office of the Panel members will be three to five years, with the first group having staggered terms to avoid their replacements all being installed at the same time.

### **The Secretariat**

A Secretariat of approximately 20–25 staff led by a high-profile Executive Director will carry out the operations and the day-to-day administration of the Panel.

The Secretariat will be headquartered in a major capital city in the North or South, with regional representative offices established over time.

The Secretariat will support the work of the Panel, and will complete research in line with the Panel's requirements. This includes developing scenarios and collating and analyzing methods and tools and reviews. Panel members will be involved and/or lead each study from the outset and will have their names tied to it publications.

The Secretariat, in collaboration with leading international academic/research institutions in the field of conflict prevention, will complete the biennial assessment reports tied to the Global Summit on Conflict and Security .

There will be geographic diversity throughout the Panel’s structures, including the Secretariat, and its staff should be gender balanced.

The Panel Secretariat will also serve the proposed Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention and Human Security.

## **Permanence**

The number of potential threats to international peace and human security around the world justifies having a permanent panel in place.

## **Independence**

The Panel will be independent of governments and international organizations.

## **Cooperation with like minded bodies**

Maintaining independence does not mean maintaining a strict distance from the UN, national governments, or other bodies. The Panel’s work will be enhanced by close and mutually supportive relationships with such bodies, and other groups who have a stake in preventing violent conflict. Moreover, a wide variety of bodies maintain close links with the UN, and many have observer status within it, giving them the right to speak at most meetings, though not to vote. This would obviously be desirable in the case of the Panel, given that an important element of the Panel’s work would be advocacy before such bodies.

## **A Global Summit on Conflict and Security**

The Panel will convene a biennial Global Summit on Conflict and Security bringing together the peacebuilding and traditional security policy communities including military representatives. It will be held over two to three days as the key public space to reframe the traditional security and conflict debates and come to agreed recommendations to advance and operationalize a new holistic approach to security and the prevention of violent conflict.

The key stakeholders and participants in the summit will reach consensus on key priority areas for the biennial assessment reports of the Panel during the following two-year period. It could also act as a “peer review” body for the work and publications of the Panel on an ongoing basis.



The key stakeholders and participants in the summit will be national governments, and regional and international organizations who will work with a broader group of stakeholders including representatives from civil society, parliaments, academic institutions, business and the military. It is envisaged that this multi-stakeholder Global Summit on Conflict and Security will also feed into the Panel success stories, lessons learned, best practices, and other relevant information on an ongoing basis.

## **Procedure**

The Panel will develop rules of procedure. Decision-making within the Panel should normally be by consensus, with provisions made for voting in case consensus cannot be reached within a reasonable period of time.

## **Funding**

To ensure independence to all aspects of the Panel's work, the Panel will seek to be established with a standing Trust Fund. This Trust Fund will be sought from governments and foundations.

The Trust Fund should cover not only seed funding, but guarantee the Panel's existence for at least 5-10 years.

Involving the business community and individual philanthropists in supporting the Trust Fund will be explored with relevant stakeholders.

## **NEXT STEPS TOWARDS LAUNCHING THE PANEL**

The Task Force will undertake a wide range of international soundings to assess receptivity towards the Panel including with the UN, signatories to the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, UN Group of Friends for Conflict Prevention, EU, AU, OAS, Arab League, and ASEAN, amongst others.

In addition, a public presentation of the Panel concept is planned for the security policy and conflict prevention communities in at least Brussels, New York, and if possible other international centers in the South, to help secure the multi-stakeholder support called for above.

An intense period of advocacy will take place with the Task Force working to secure a partnership with 2-3 key southern countries and an equal number from the North, to support and lobby for the establishment of the Panel.

The Task Force, in close cooperation with its eventual partner countries, will seek to secure the endorsement of the Panel proposal by the signatories to the Geneva

Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

### **Role of EWI's Task Force**

The Task Force should function as the initiator and initial advocate for the process to establish the Panel. The Task Force will work with key stakeholders to assemble the initial funding consortium for the Trust Fund.

The High-Level Advisory Board of the Task Force might form the nucleus of the Panel.

Leading members of the Task Force Core group who meet the requirements of membership might also join the Panel.

The Task Force might act as a source of expert advice and suggestions, or peer reviews for the Panel's analyses and reporting.

Initially, the Secretariat of the Task Force might serve as the Panel Secretariat.

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE BIENNIAL GLOBAL SUMMIT ON CONFLICT AND SECURITY

*The proposal for the establishment of a biennial multi-stakeholder Global Summit on Conflict and Security as part of the International Panel on Conflict Prevention and Human Security (Panel) came about as a result of deliberations with Task Force members and the encouraging soundings taken with various stakeholders from the international community. What follows is the Secretariat's first conception of the summit.*

The proposed summit would be the first information and communication channel of its kind, through which policies and activities of a multi-stakeholder group including representatives from government, civil society, parliaments, academic institutions, business and the military, as well as other relevant decision-makers in regional and international groups, could be shared and partnerships built towards fulfilling different needs to prevent state fragility, violent conflict, and other crises.

## Aims of the Global Summit on Conflict and Security

The Global Summit on Conflict and Security would aim to:

- ◆ promote and facilitate dialogue and encourage stronger links between the different stakeholders and structures mentioned above (*i.e.: government, civil society, parliaments, academic institutions, business and the military, and other relevant decision-makers in regional and international groups*), and from this dialogue promote coordinated agenda setting and action amongst these groups;
- ◆ improve the capacity of civil society organizations to influence the decisions and actions of policy-makers at the national, regional, and international level; and
- ◆ provide the opportunity for all key stakeholders and participants in the summit to reach consensus on key priority areas for the biennial assessment reports of the Panel during the following two-year period.

## **Added Value of the Global Summit on Conflict and Security**

The Global Summit on Conflict and Security would be unique as it brings together the conflict prevention community and traditional security decision-makers. It would provide the opportunity to re-frame the traditional security policy debate to include soft security issues.

Additionally, the establishment of such a summit would benefit multiple structures by creating the space needed for the various stakeholders to gain greater access to, and linkage and information sharing opportunities with, each other thereby providing further opportunities to deliberate relevant and timely policy advice.

Moreover, on the ground—in areas of state fragility, conflict, and other types of crises—the success of the summit would contribute to more effective policies and actions on the part of all participating stakeholders.

### **It is expected that the Global Summit on Conflict and Security will:**

- ◆ create an information and communication channel between the relevant groups;
- ◆ promote greater awareness from civil society organizations of the policies and activities of governments, parliaments, the military, and international organizations;
- ◆ improve understanding of the needs of governments, parliaments, the military, regional and international organizations, and other relevant decision-makers;
- ◆ enhance cooperation between civil society actors and relevant decision-makers;
- ◆ improve responsive institutional structures towards the capacity building needs of civil society organizations;
- ◆ produce stronger advocacy coordination amongst relevant civil society organizations; and
- ◆ engender higher quality policy advice from civil society organizations for governments, parliaments, the military, regional and international organizations, and other relevant decision-makers.

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**BUILDING A PARLIAMENTARIANS  
NETWORK FOR CONFLICT  
PREVENTION AND HUMAN  
SECURITY**

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# PROPOSAL FOR A PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION AND HUMAN SECURITY

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## PROBLEM

While there have been more or less effective moves towards institutionalizing conflict prevention in some countries and international organizations, the political will for early preventive action has yet to materialize.

Experience shows that political will and leadership are key to consolidating stability and peace. National parliaments have an important role to play in setting the political agenda towards conflict prevention and sustainable human security. Parliamentarians in particular have a championing role to play in shaping political space to include conflict prevention within the security dialogue.

The involvement of Members of Parliament (MPs), senators, and members of Congress in advancing effective national preventive policies and structures is part of the process of incorporating the legislative arm of states in international diplomatic efforts towards preventing violent conflict. Moreover, as peoples representatives, parliamentarians are particularly well placed within their respective states to understand and provide solutions to the many intricate issues that often contribute to conflict.

The case for the initiative is that such a network will effectively address existing gaps in the development of national and international prevention architecture and policies, improve policy coordination, and heighten awareness amongst the media and the general public that conflict prevention and human security are core national interests for all parliaments and governments.

## PROPOSAL

The Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention and Human Security (Parliamentarians Network) will be an international, non-partisan, standing-structure of parliamentarians from countries across the globe working at the national and international level to gear legislative mechanisms and procedures to direct political will and resources towards preventive action and human security.

By reinforcing government accountability to parliament, including reporting duties on pending violent conflict, raising political attention to the need for effective preventive diplomatic action, and stressing the importance of preventing violent conflict as a key national interest with the media and the public, parliamentarians can help to re-frame the traditional security policy debate from focusing on hard security issues towards a more holistic approach, including soft security issues.

For example, MPs from nations with a history of violent conflict and who have the potential to develop national conflict prevention capacities will benefit from the advice and support of their parliamentary peers from other countries. At the same time, even in nations where frameworks for conflict prevention and human security do exist, being kept aware of the situation on the ground in other states is crucial to effectively promoting knowledge and understanding at the national and international level of countries that are at risk of falling into violent conflict.

On this last point, countries that have advanced conflict prevention capacities will have the opportunity to share their knowledge and experience with states that are still developing national conflict prevention structures. Other countries that have good conflict prevention capacity and also have experience in dealing with inter- and intra-state violence will provide network members the opportunity to gain first-hand practical information.

### **International Panel on Conflict Prevention and Human Security**

In addition, linkage with the proposed International Panel on Conflict Prevention and Human Security (Panel) through a joint secretariat will add to the legislative focus of the Parliamentarians Network a complementary engagement of the executive branch. As a result, parliaments and governments—in addition to affiliated academics and think tanks, civil society organizations (CSOs), military, donor groups, and the business community—can develop a cross-sectoral approach to building national capacity, resources, and effective responses to threats of violent conflict and issues of human security. In working towards its mission, the network will improve parliament as well as government interest in conflict prevention and human security issues, raise accountability levels, and build national capacity to foster preventive diplomatic action.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK**

There are a number of parliamentary networks working in the conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and human security fields. Some are global in scope while others are

regionally based. Many identify peacebuilding as their main aim, and include conflict prevention activities as part of their broader organizational interests.

The Parliamentarians Network is unique and distinguishable from existing networks in that it will:

- ◆ be a global network of parliamentarians working proactively at the national level to implement the above principles;
- ◆ be a standing-structure that will work to unify the efforts of and strengthen cooperation among existing national structures to address systemic factors that contribute to violent conflict, such as the effects of climate change or poverty;
- ◆ focus exclusively on conflict prevention and human security;
- ◆ be a practical, action-oriented structure for parliamentarians focused on improving political frameworks within their countries in order to foster preventive action; and
- ◆ benefit, through its affiliation with the Panel, from the support of and cooperation with academics and think tanks, political decision-makers, CSOs, donor groups, military, and the private sector to build national capacity in their respective states towards a culture of conflict prevention.

The network will be a key tool towards building political will for conflict prevention at the national and, as a result, the international level. It is a niche for its members to more effectively influence legislation towards preventive diplomatic actions and human security issues. Building political will and resources towards conflict prevention and human security at the state level will make it easier to improve conflict prevention architecture internationally.

## PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK ACTIVITIES

The Parliamentarians Network activities will be influenced by a set of guiding principles (*see page 20*), which if implemented will improve conflict prevention policies at a national and international level. This means, for example, that network members will:

- ◆ put pressure on their national governments to develop improved peacekeeping strategies;
- ◆ advocate within parliament for devoting national resources to prevention efforts through specific budget lines;
- ◆ call on national parliaments to adopt a ‘whole-of-government’ approach (coordination of foreign, development, and defence policies) as a precondition



for a more effective focus on preventive diplomacy;

- ◆ advocate for the acceptance and implementation of the Responsibility to Protect into practice politically, legally, and institutionally;
- ◆ work towards finding a global, political consensus on the criteria for intervention in case of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes, and crimes against humanity;
- ◆ work towards a stronger entanglement of early warning, experience-sharing, reporting, preventive deployment, and preventive action, and secure its institutionalization at the UN level; and
- ◆ advocate for the advancement of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Actions like these will help reduce the long term costs of conflict on nation states and help strengthen the capacity of states to respond early to threats of violent conflict with effective diplomatic measures rather than react with costly military and post conflict ones. In addition, creating stability and peace is crucial to achieving sustainable development, which is in line with the Millennium Development Goals.

## **PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK STRUCTURE**

The Parliamentarians Network will be open to all sitting members of legislatures and parliaments at federal, national, and regional levels.

The Parliamentarians Network will be established as a complementary structure to that of the proposed Panel. Both the Parliamentarians Network and the Panel would operate with the support of a joint Secretariat, led by an Executive Director.

The network, while reserving membership to MPs, will seek to establish cooperative working links with other organizations, such as NGOs, foundations, academics, businesses, and the media, etc., who are similarly committed to avoiding the outbreak of violent conflict.

In its first phase, parliamentarians considered champions of conflict prevention from both northern and southern countries will form a nucleus group of “Parliamentarians for Conflict Prevention and Human Security”, which will then grow into the full network.

The work of the Parliamentarians Network, such as agreeing its focus issues and determining the scope of its activities, will be guided by an Executive Council composed of interested Parliamentarians Network members of global

representation and directed by a Chair, who might also maintain a seat on the Panel. Executive Council positions and the Chair, as well as other positions deemed necessary, will be elected by a majority vote of all network members.

To encourage active network participation, all parliamentary members will be involved in the decision-making process by voting on proposals put forth by the Executive Council. Due to a large expected membership, decisions will be made by majority vote.

## **Focus Issues**

The Parliamentarians Network will work in a number of different issue areas to influence parliamentary support for preventive diplomatic action and improve capacity and structures for conflict prevention activities. As capacity grows, the proposed network may decide to create issue-specific committees as part of its structure.

The network will specifically seek to influence better coordination amongst Parliamentary Committees (by calling, for example, for joint sessions of the Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Development Committees) and relevant government departments, and work to properly resource prevention activities.

## **NEXT STEPS TOWARDS LAUNCHING THE NETWORK**

The EastWest Institute's International Task Force on Preventive Diplomacy has undertaken a wide range of international soundings amongst parliamentarians and parliamentary organizations to assess receptivity towards the network.

The Task Force is now looking to form a nucleus group of 8-10 champions of conflict prevention from both northern and southern parliaments who will guide the work of the network during its first phase of establishment, with an expected launch event at the European Parliament later in the year.

The Task Force is also looking to secure membership of sitting parliamentarians who actively support the initiative and will work towards implementing its aims and objectives. Additionally, members will be asked to commit publicly to the network.

Concurrently, the Task Force is working to secure funding from key stakeholders to ensure that the Parliamentarians Network will be fully funded for a period of 3 years from September 2008.

# PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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The Parliamentarians Network will be guided by its mission to gear legislative mechanisms to direct political will and resources towards preventive action and human security.

The Parliamentarians Network will work to:

## Build Capacity

- ◆ The realization of joint sessions of the Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Development Committees will improve policy coordination at the national level. Building national capacity and strengthening national commitments to conflict preventive activities will also facilitate a move towards improving international cooperation, including greater support for UN advances in this field.
- ◆ Collaborative experience-sharing visits by Parliamentarians Network members, together with like-minded regional bodies and civil society organizations in need of support, will help to strengthen regional cooperation in conflict-prone areas. The sharing of best practices by members from countries that have emerged from conflict will inform network members of decisions and mechanisms that have led to the non-recurrence of violence.
- ◆ Network members will collaborate with regional parliamentarians networks to leverage their capacity, knowledge, and experience towards building national political will and resources for preventive action.
- ◆ Network members will lobby within their national parliaments to ensure proper resourcing support to civil society organizations and conflict prevention efforts in the field.

## Strengthen International Cooperation

- ◆ The network will cooperate with parliamentarians and parliaments in countries that have previously experienced conflict, who can share first-hand knowledge, best practices, and experiences on: political negotiation, conflict resolution,

reconciliation, building successful power sharing, cross-border cooperation, etc. Members of the network will have the opportunity to participate in a biennial global summit on conflict and security convened by the Panel, bringing together the traditional security policy community and the peacebuilding community.

## Influence legislation

Network members will work within their respective parliaments to advocate for the adoption or enhancement of legislative mechanisms to prevent violent conflict, such as working to:

- ◆ ensure that national resources are committed to conflict prevention activities above and beyond development cooperation funds;
- ◆ ensure that governments are legally bound to report promptly to their respective parliaments in case of pending conflict, in particular genocide, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, and war crimes; and
- ◆ improve existing conflict prevention structures in national administrations.

## Hold Governments accountable to report promptly on threats and challenges to peace and on their responses

To exercise their executive oversight role and hold governments accountable to report promptly to their respective parliaments for national commitments (or lack thereof) to the prevention of violent conflict both at home and abroad, network members will:

- ◆ raise timely questions on the House floor—in some cases, after being contacted by a peer member of the network—regarding rising tensions in conflict-afflicted countries. Such questioning will keep countries with good conflict capacity informed of tense situations in states that are at risk of falling into violent conflict, which is crucial to raising awareness at the national, and when necessary the international level, and towards building political will for effective preventive action; and
- ◆ work to develop national policies that address systemic factors of tensions, such as, for example, advocating for the enhancement of international frameworks to regulate trade in resources that fuel conflict or lobbying for the adoption of national commitments to reduce the negative effects of climate change.

## Produce and disseminate information

Network members will seek to increase awareness among decision-makers, the media, and the public about the necessity for and the cost effectiveness of preventive diplomacy. This can be achieved through such activities as:

- ◆ creating a Parliamentarians Network public website, which will share public information on the Network’s activities and regular articles;
- ◆ publishing policy briefs containing recommendations that address practical considerations towards legislating conflict prevention activities at both the national and international levels, such as proposals for developing international norms and standards geared towards preventing violent conflict; and
- ◆ producing handbooks that offer practical recommendations on improving conflict mediation, implementing international norms and standards of conflict prevention, and increasing the cross-committee cooperation of parliaments and the inter-department policy coordination of governments on preventing violent conflict. These handbooks could be published in cooperation with another organization that is experienced in producing practical guides for parliamentarians, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

## Institutionalize and mainstream conflict prevention

Together, the proposed Parliamentarians Network “Guiding Principles” are action-oriented initiatives that will contribute to improving national legislation and policies towards effectively institutionalizing and mainstreaming preventive diplomacy.



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## **TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

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## TASK FORCE HIGH-LEVEL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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**Martti Ahtisaari** (Finland), *Former President of Finland*

Mr. Ahtisaari was President of Finland from 1994 until 2000. In 2000, Mr. Ahtisaari founded the Crisis Management Initiative. From 2005 to early 2008 Mr. Ahtisaari held the position of Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the future status process for Kosovo.

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**Sadig Al-Mahdi** (Sudan), *President of Umma Party and Imam of Alansar, Former Prime Minister of Sudan*

Mr. Al-Mahdi came into the political limelight in 1964, when he played a significant role in the wide public discussions that led and accompanied the October 1964 popular up-rise. Currently he continues his mobilization efforts to restore peace and democracy to Sudan, and to solve the dialectic between modern life and religious revival in the Muslim world.

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**Lakhdar Brahimi** (Algeria), *Former Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser of the Secretary-General of the United Nations*

Mr. Brahimi was Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan from January 2004 to December 2005 during which time he advised the Secretary-General on a wide range of issues, including the areas of conflict prevention and conflict resolution. Mr. Brahimi also played instrumental roles for the UN in South Africa (1994), Afghanistan (2001-2004), and Iraq (2004).

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**Kim Campbell** (Canada), *the Right Honourable, P.C., Q.C., Former Prime Minister of Canada*

Ms. Campbell served as Canada's nineteenth and first female Prime Minister in 1993. She is a founding member of the Club of Madrid. Ms. Campbell also serves on advisory boards of numerous other international organizations. She makes frequent appearances on radio and television.

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**Jan Eliasson** (Sweden), *Ambassador, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Darfur*

A veteran in the fields of diplomacy and foreign relations, Mr. Eliasson served from 1994 to 2000 as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs. In 1992, he was appointed the first United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and was involved in operations in Somalia, Sudan, Mozambique and the Balkans.



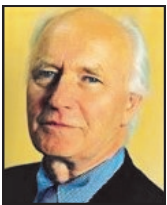
**Gareth Evans** (Australia), *President and CEO of International Crisis Group*

Mr. Evans spent 21 years in Australian politics, 13 of them as a Cabinet Minister. As Foreign Minister he was best known internationally for his role in developing the UN peace plan for Cambodia, helping conclude the Chemical Weapons Convention, and helping initiate the new Asia Pacific regional economic and security architecture.



**El Hassan bin Talal** (Jordan), *President of the Arab Thought Forum*

El Hassan bin Talal graduated from Oxford University with a B.A. (Hon.) and M.A. in Oriental Studies. He initiated, founded, and is actively involved in a number of Jordanian and international institutes and committees, and has also been a prolific contributor to regional and international issues. He was awarded the Niwano Peace Prize in 2008.



**Thorvald Stoltenberg** (Norway), *President of the Norwegian Red Cross*

Formerly the Foreign Minister and Minister of Defence of Norway. In 1990 Mr. Stoltenberg became UN High Commissioner for Refugees. In 1993 he was appointed Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the former Yugoslavia and UN Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia.

## TASK FORCE CORE GROUP MEMBERS

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**Brigalia Bam** (South Africa), *Chairperson, Independent Electoral Commission*

Dr Bam has served on several public bodies, inter alia as a member of the South African Human Rights Commission. She is Founder and President of the Women's Development Foundation and has numerous other memberships and interests.

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**Gidon Bromberg** (Israel), *Israeli Director, Friends of the Earth Middle East*

Mr. Bromberg is the founder and director of "Friends of the Earth Middle East". In April 2007, Yale University awarded him a 2007 fellowship for global leadership: the Yale World Fellows program.

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**Scilla Elworthy** (UK), *Founder Oxford Research Group & Peace Direct*

Dr. Scilla Elworthy founded the Oxford Research Group in 1982 and Peace Direct in 2004. She was awarded the Niwano Peace Prize in 2003 and nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize.

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**Gernot Erlar** (Germany), *Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office*

Mr. Erlar has been the Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office since November 2005. Mr. Erlar has also been a Member of the German Bundestag since 1987.

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**Carmen Maria Gallardo Hernández** (El Salvador), *Vice-Chairperson, UN Peacebuilding Commission; Ambassador and Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations*

Ambassador Hernández served previously as the Coordinator for International Cooperation for El Salvador's Supreme Court. Between 1995 and 1996 she served as the Executive Director of the Salvadoran Foundation for Peace.



**Peter Gastrow** (South Africa), *Institute for Security Studies, Cape Town Director*

Mr. Gastrow served as a member of parliament and in 1991 participated in the creation of the National Peace Accord. Prior to the first democratic election in 1994, he chaired one of the Councils of the transitional government.



**Thomas Greminger** (Switzerland), *Head of Political Affairs Division IV, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs*

In 1992 Ambassador Greminger became adviser for development policy at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). In 1996, he became head of the Development Policy and Research Division of the SDC.



**Ortwin Hennig** (Germany), *Vice President, Head of the Conflict Prevention Program, EastWest Institute, Ambassador*

Prior to joining EWI, Ambassador Hennig was Commissioner for Civilian Crisis Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Post-Conflict Peace Building for the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.

## TASK FORCE CORE GROUP MEMBERS

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**Mahmoud Labadi** (Palestine Territories), *Foreign Relations Commission, Palestinian Authority*

Mr. Labadi was formerly the spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organization and Editor-in-Chief of “Palestine Bulletin”. Mr. Labadi also worked for the Palestinian Authority as Director General in the Ministry of Economy and Trade in Ramallah.

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**Nick Mabey** (UK), *Chief Executive of E3G*

Mr. Mabey was formerly a senior advisor in the UK Prime Minister’s Strategy Unit leading work on a variety of policy areas, including energy, fisheries, unstable states and organized crime. Before he joined the government sector he was Head of Economics and Development at WWF-UK.

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**Ahmet M. Oren** (Turkey), *CEO of Ihlas Holding A.S., EWI Board Member*

Mr. Oren began working for Ihlas Holding after studying economics and has served in various IT and media related positions within the group. He is a board member of several international organizations, including EWI.

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**Paul B. Stares** (USA), *General John W. Vessey Senior Fellow and Director of the Center for Preventive Action, Council on Foreign Relations*

Mr. Stares was the former Vice President of USIP’s Center for Conflict Analysis and Prevention. He currently focuses on conflict prevention strategies for key areas of concern at the Council on Foreign Relations.

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**Paul van Tongeren** (the Netherlands), *Secretary General of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict*

Mr. van Tongeren has been involved in the activities of numerous Dutch NGOs in the field of development cooperation, peace and environment. He founded the European Centre for Conflict Prevention and facilitated the establishment of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict.



**Dmitri Trenin** (Russia), *Deputy Director of the Carnegie Moscow Center*

Mr. Trenin has been with the Carnegie Endowment Center since its inception in 1993. He served in the Soviet and Russian armed forces from 1972 to 1993. Mr. Trenin has also taught at the Defence University in Moscow.



**Sundeep Waslekar** (India), *President of the Strategic Foresight Group*

Under the auspices of the Strategic Foresight Group, Mr. Waslekar has advised significant business and government audiences. He has been involved in numerous diplomatic activities.



**Zhou Xingbao** (China), *Vice Chairman and Secretary General of the China National Committee Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific*

Mr. Zhou joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1965 working in the department of Translation and Interpretation. He has also served his country in foreign missions in the UK & Northern Ireland and in Canada.



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For more information about the International Task Force on Preventive Diplomacy, please visit:

[www.ewipreventivediplomacy.org](http://www.ewipreventivediplomacy.org)



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