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Fact Sheet

Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization
Washington, DC
August 23, 2006

International Partnerships To Build Peace

"Transformational Diplomacy Objective: To work with our many partners around the world to build and sustain democratic, well-governed states that will respond to the needs of their people – and conduct themselves responsibly in the international system."– Secretary Rice, January 18, 2006

Supporting the President's Agenda

The United States and our international partners share a commitment to preventing state failure and resolving violent conflict. Key to increasing the collective impact of stabilization and reconstruction operations is improving how we each plan and organize our skills and resources to ensure unity of effort. Through offices like S/CRS, we promote whole of government national responses that can better plug in to multilateral operations. The U.S. strongly supports international efforts to foster cooperation and interoperability to transform conflict and build peace.

The December 2005 Presidential Directive for management of reconstruction and stabilization activities instructs the U.S. Government to work with other countries and organizations, to anticipate state failure, avoid it when possible, and respond quickly and effectively when necessary and appropriate to promote peace, security, development, democratic practices, market economies, and the rule of law.

Fostering Collaboration to Advance Conflict Transformation

Bilateral Partners: Many countries have established or are considering coordination offices for stabilization and reconstruction activities to better marshal their development, security and diplomatic resources in support of these cross-cutting activities. The United Kingdom and Canada have set up interministerial coordination functions similar to S/CRS. France, Germany, the Netherlands, Australia, Finland, Denmark and other countries are pursuing ways to improve their nations' capabilities.

International Organizations: The United States looks forward to working with the newly-established UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), which will provide a forum to help countries transition from peacekeeping to longer-term post-conflict stabilization and reconstruction. Western Hemisphere Affairs and S/CRS also worked to revitalize the UN-mandated Core Group

on Haiti to support the elections process in that country.

Regional Organizations: As neighboring nations bear the brunt of refugee flows, disrupted trade and rule of law, and humanitarian needs resulting from conflict, regional organizations have the incentive and proximity to respond quickly. The U.S. is working with partners in international fora, such as the G-8, to encourage capacity-building support to the African Union and other regional organizations.

Regional organizations are also working towards integrating civilian and military elements to address conflict and post-conflict situations. Building on considerable experience in the Balkans and Afghanistan, NATO is examining how its role is evolving to meet future stabilization and reconstruction requirements as well as how to improve cooperation and planning with the UN, regional organizations and the non-governmental community. With the European Union, the U.S. is exploring ways to promote information sharing and advance cooperation on conflict prevention.

International Civil-Military Exercises: In March 2006, the State Department participated with civilians from eight nations in U.S. Joint Forces Command's Multinational Experiment 4 (MNE4), which aimed to improve civil-military cooperation among international partners in a crisis. NATO also participated and the UN and EU observed.



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