



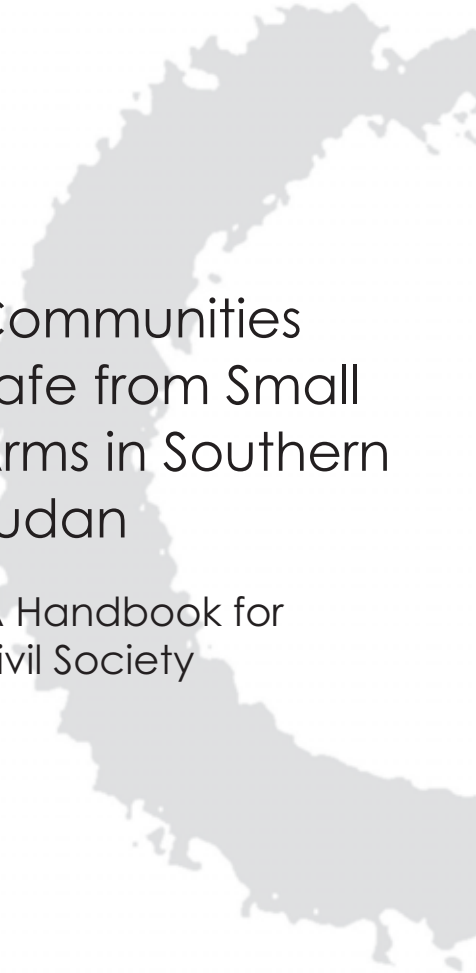
BONN INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR CONVERSION

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Communities Safe from Small Arms in Southern Sudan

A Handbook for
Civil Society





INTRODUCTION

Welcome! By reading this booklet you are taking an interest in creating a community safe from small arms.

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) are a great threat to communities all over the world. Be it a large war or a village argument, the presence of SALW will make the situation worse and lead to more people dying. In Southern Sudan, small arms have contributed towards instability, violence and war.



This booklet will give you some background information on small arms and provide ideas of small arms control activities you can carry out in your communities.

The booklet is divided into six sections:

- 1) The problem of small arms and light weapons;
- 2) International and regional measures to control small arms;
- 3) The situation of small arms in Southern Sudan;
- 4) Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration;
- 5) Civilian disarmament;
- 6) Civil society action on SALW.

SECTION 1 – THE PROBLEM OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

There are over 600 million SALW in circulation around the world. Every year, an estimated 500,000 people are killed by these weapons. This is the same as one person every minute.

SALW in a community are a threat to peace and security.

Threats include:

- More deaths and injuries;
- Lack of development;
- No personal or community security;
- Destruction of property;
- Breakdown of law and order.



WHAT DOES SALW MEAN?

SALW is short for:

Small
Arms and
Light
Weapons

Small Arms are weapons that are designed for personal use. They may include:

- Revolvers and pistols;
- Rifles and carbines;
- Sub-machine guns;
- Assault rifles;
- Light machine guns.

Light Weapons are those which are designed for use by several persons and include:

- Heavy machine guns;
- Hand-held grenade launchers;
- Portable anti-aircraft guns;
- Mortars of less than 100mm;
- Portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles;
- Portable launchers of anti-tank missile and rocket systems.

Since there is no universally agreed definition of SALW, some people also include ammunition within the description.

WHAT'S THE LINK BETWEEN SMALL ARMS AND DEVELOPMENT?

Development is a long-term process that aims to improve the quality of life of all people in a country. A developed country is one where the basic needs of the population are satisfied.

The misuse of SAWL and their contribution to armed violence can have a negative and destructive impact on development.

Direct effects of SALW include:

- Deaths;
- Injuries and accidental wounding;
- Psychological consequences, such as trauma;
- Damage to property.

Indirect effects of SALW include:

- Increased violence;
- Instability and tension;
- Decrease in the rule of law, good governance and human rights;

- Less opportunity to work and earn an income;
- Decline in the economy;
- Decreased willingness of foreign and local investors to invest;
- Difficulty in carrying out development programs because of the threat of violence;
- Greater personal insecurity.

To promote development, small arms need to be controlled. It is up to you, your community and your government to control these weapons and minimize their negative effects—we can only give you some ideas and tools to do so.

Remember: SALW affect development. The success of your country's development will depend on what actions you, your community and your government take today!

HOW DO SMALL ARMS AFFECT YOUTH?

There are many reasons why a person, especially young people, might feel s/he needs a gun. These reasons can include:

- Violent situation / conflict / war;
- Lack of protection;
- Lack of security;
- Livelihood, tradition;
- Peer pressure;
- Group belonging;
- Need to earn money;
- Power, prestige, respect.

In Southern Sudan many children and youths carry guns for guarding family cattle or for raiding.

It is estimated that some 300,000 children worldwide are members of armed forces as fighters, porters, cooks, spies, messengers or ammunition carriers. They are often recruited by force, but some also decide to join armed forces.



In the last three years tens of thousands of children have returned to their homes in Southern Sudan after participating in the conflict. Many of these children are struggling to adjust to a normal life.

One of the main reasons for taking up arms is a lack of alternatives. Offering alternatives to armed violence can prevent youth from taking up weapons or help them return to a civilian life.

Remember: Even if children and youth voluntarily join armed groups, this decision is often based on a lack of alternatives. Children and youth need support from the government and the community to find their way back to a peaceful life!

GENDER: WHAT ABOUT MEN AND WOMEN?

Men

Men are the highest percentage of both perpetrators and victims of SALW violence. Men often see weapons as symbols of 'courage', 'masculinity' or 'honor', and therefore as positive and necessary for their survival.

Women

Women are often targets of rape and killing in armed conflict situations, and victims of crime and violence in their homes. During armed conflict, women are responsible for the survival of their families and have to take



But sometimes, women may play a role in encouraging small arms violence. If women view guns as symbols of masculinity, men may be more likely to carry and use guns. Therefore, women can play an important role in changing the image of gun ownership by showing that the use of a gun does not impress them.

Remember: Very often men and women see small arms in different ways. When planning a SALW control activity you should think about the response and inclusion of both genders. This is especially true for the processes of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DD&R).

SECTION 2 - GLOBAL AND REGIONAL AGREEMENTS ON SALW

WHAT'S THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DOING ABOUT THE SALW PROBLEM?

Many governments in the world recognize the small arms problem and have signed international, regional or sub-regional agreements to stop the spread of small arms. These agreements are important for providing governments, communities and individuals with a framework of action on small arms control.

The agreements especially aim to stop the illegal trade in SALW at the national, regional and international levels.

The international agreement dealing with SALW is called the UN Programme of Action.

WHAT IS THE UN PROGRAMME OF ACTION (POA)?

The PoA aims to:

- Help prevent the illegal manufacture and trade of small arms;
- Reduce their impact in countries after a conflict has ended;
- Promote responsibility by states in the legal trade of SALW;
- Raise awareness of the threat of SALW.

Every year each member state should report back on the steps it has taken to implement the PoA.

All member states of the United Nations have agreed to implement the PoA.

However, the PoA is not legally binding. States comply due to pressure but not obligation.

ARE THERE ANY REGIONAL AGREEMENTS THAT AFFECT SOUTHERN SUDAN?

Sudan is amongst the 11 East African countries that have signed the Nairobi Protocol on Small Arms and Light Weapons. This Protocol was agreed in 2006 and, amongst other commitments, it requires the countries involved to:

- Ban civilian ownership of automatic and semi-automatic rifles;
- Create a register of all guns;
- Regulate gun storage and test the competency of future owners;
- Restrict the number of guns a person can own;
- Introduce tough sentencing for unlicensed gun possession;

While Sudan has signed the Protocol it has not yet ratified it. This means Sudan is only morally—not legally—obliged to fulfill the conditions.

Remember: It is relatively easy for governments to sign an agreement on SALW, but much more difficult to put words into action. Civil society actors and local authorities have a key role to play in making sure that the government lives up to its word.

SECTION 3 – SALW IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

Until the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, Southern Sudan experienced decades of armed conflict and is still suffering from its consequences, such as underdevelopment, large-scale displacement and continuing armed conflict at the community level. According to international estimates, more than two million people died between 1983 and 2002, most of them from disease and malnutrition.



There are many different causes and levels of conflict in Southern Sudan. These range from conflicts between individuals and groups over such things as marriage, cattle, water and pasture to conflicts at the political level.

The presence of small arms contributes to these conflicts and makes them more deadly. For example, violence between pastoralists and crop farmers or among pastoralists over cattle rustling or grazing rights has occurred in Southern Sudan since ancient times. Traditionally, these conflicts were fought with spears and sticks. However, this has changed due to the circulation of small arms during the civil war. Cattle raids with the use of guns can now lead to dozens or even hundreds of deaths. Traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, such as negotiations between community elders, are less effective as power is now often wielded by well-armed young men.



The Comprehensive Peace Agreement

Signed on 9 January 2005, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M) ended more than two decades of civil war in South Sudan. The agreement provides for

- (a) The withdrawal of GoS troops from Southern Sudan and the establishment of 'joint integrated units'
- (b) Political autonomy for the South for six years followed by a referendum on independence in 2011
- (c) The equitable sharing of oil revenue between GoS and the Southern Sudan government
- (d) The representation of Southerners in the national government

The CPA further states that Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DD&R) Commissions shall be established in both Northern and Southern Sudan with the mandate to oversee the reduction in size of both the SPLA and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF).

The CPA addresses most of the issues with relation to the militarized political conflict between GoS and the SPLA/M, however it makes no reference to the inter-communal conflicts that continue to jeopardize the security of Southern communities.

SECURITY IN SOUTHERN SUDAN SINCE 2005

A study undertaken by the Small Arms Survey in Lakes State in 2006 found that every third respondent admitted to owning either individually or collectively (as part of the family) a firearm (most commonly an AK-47 assault rifle).

Compared with other regions in Southern Sudan, Lakes State has been fairly stable and peaceful, which raises concerns that gun ownership is even more of a problem in others regions.

The survey also found that most residents of Lakes State were in favor of stronger measures to control private gun ownership. It also found that while some respondents said that security had improved after the signing of the CPA, others reported feeling less secure than during the conflict. Most households had experienced armed robberies and fights involving firearms since January 2005.

Remember: SALW make a violent conflict more deadly. They also stay in the community and create insecurity long after the conflict has ended.

SECTION 4 – DISARMAMENT DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION

Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DD&R) programs are processes that take place after a conflict has ended. They deal **only with combatants** and sometimes with those who were involved with the fighting forces such as ammunition carriers, cooks or “wives”.

DD&R processes aim to:

- Prevent the return of armed conflict;
- Help create the conditions for post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building;
- Improve the security situation.

DD&R has three phases:

DISARMAMENT

- Separating combatants from their weapons when a ceasefire or peace agreement has been reached.

DEMOBILIZATION

- Dissolving and/or reducing military-like structures that were developed during conflict.

REINTEGRATION

- Returning combatants to civilian life through non-violent, economic and social opportunities.

No one phase of DD&R can be successful without the others!

In the first phases of DD&R, the basic needs of ex-combatants have to be taken care of, such as medical treatment, psychological assistance, food and shelter. Female ex-combatants should be disarmed and demobilized separately from male ex-combatants, and children and youth separately from adults. **Failures in DD&R planning and implementation can be the cause of renewed conflict!**

Of all three phases, **reintegration** is often the hardest one to complete successfully. This is because reintegration is a long-term process that requires not only a lot of money, but also a commitment to peace. This commitment must come from ex-combatants, as well as from the communities receiving them.



Reintegration involves the **conversion of ex-combatants into civilians**. As they have often been out of civilian life for a long time, they need help in many ways, such as:

- Physical and mental well-being;
- Adapting to and being accepted by community members;
- Finding a civilian job to earn a living;
- Finding social status and respect.

Some groups even need special assistance to succeed in post-conflict situations. These include women, youth, combatants with disabilities, combatants from minority ethnic groups or combatants from the losing side of the conflict.

Female combatants and children and youth associated with armed forces are often neglected in DD&R planning. Failing to address their needs can lead to big problems for peacebuilding—women can be isolated and children re-recruited into fighting forces. Neglecting children and youth in DD&R means neglecting the future stability of a society and country!

Communities receiving ex-combatants are also important to the success of reintegration, as it is up to them to peacefully accept ex-combatants as members of their community. Governments and international organizations should support these communities and ensure that they benefit from the reintegration process as well.

DD&R IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

The responsibility to organize and oversee the disarmament process in Southern Sudan rests with the Southern Sudan Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Committee (SSDDRC) under the leadership of Chairman Arop Mayak.

The SSDDRC was created by the President of the Government of Southern Sudan, and its headquarter is in Juba. The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) assists in this task through an integrated UN DDR Unit based in both Southern and Northern Sudan.

The focus of all DD&R activities is on former combatants of SPLA and the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), and in particular on women and children, as well as the disabled associated with both armed forces.

DD&R is a difficult and formal process that relates only to combatants and which must be carried out by the authorities. However, communities and civil society groups can take part in SALW control. In the next part we will look at what this involves and how **you** can play a part in making your community safer from SALW.

SECTION 5 – CIVILIAN DISARMAMENT

Civilian disarmament programs are organized to make communities feel safer by collecting and destroying the weapons that are circulating. They may start immediately after a conflict or they can be organized in any community that is suffering from problems with small arms violence. SALW collections are aimed at civilians rather than combatants.

People may give up their guns **voluntarily** or by **force**.

People **voluntarily** give up their guns if:

- They believe in the peacebuilding process;
- The authorities provide security;
- They want to avoid being disarmed with force.

Some voluntary collection programs may offer something in return for the collection of the weapon—such as a bicycle, sewing machine or money. Other programs may assist the community in a project that benefits the community, such as building a school or a market. In many cases the opportunity to have a safe community free of guns is all the encouragement that people need.

People can be **forced** to give up their guns:

- By search and seizure with the threat of violence;
- By fines or imprisonment for those who are found with guns.

In Sudan, most of the small arms are in civilian hands, which is a big threat to peace and security. This problem has not yet been adequately addressed.

Civilian disarmament in Southern Sudan

Local SPLA/M officials have occasionally tried to disarm civilians in Southern Sudan by using coercion. The most notorious event was in March and April 2006 when SPLA/M tried to disarm elements of the ‘White Army’ and Nuer civilians in Jonglei State. This campaign resulted in the death of hundreds of civilians as well as the burning of villages and the looting of cattle. With the assistance of the UN, a following voluntary disarmament program yielded more than 2,500 guns in Jonglei.

This demonstrates the need to gain support from the local community when planning a civilian disarmament program.

Because of the dangers of small arms, **weapons that have been collected should ideally be destroyed**. Destroyed weapons are weapons that cannot be misused again. In some countries, destruction is not possible because:

- There is yet no full police coverage;
- There is no national firearms law;
- There is little confidence in the peace process.

SALW can be destroyed with special equipment or by using common farming equipment such as tractors—this can be a good source of employment!

What's the difference between DD&R and SALW collections?

Both DD&R and SALW collections involve the gathering (and usually destroying) of weapons. However there is one main difference:

- DD&R is a process for **former combatants**. It involves collecting their guns and reintegrating them back into the community.
- SALW collections are aimed at **civilians**. Their purpose is to rid a community of the weapons that make that community feel unsafe.

In many places in Africa and elsewhere, piles of guns have been burned in public in a “Flame of Peace”. This is a good way of showing the community that the guns really are being destroyed, and it can help bring people together.



Remember: Only properly trained authorities should carry out collection and destruction programs!!! However, you can help in these programs by raising awareness and building confidence within the community.

SECTION 6 – CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION ON SALW

Weapons collection and destruction programs are just one way of controlling the problem of SALW in your community. There are plenty of other SALW control activities that can help **reduce** and **prevent** the threat of small arms.

These activities include:

- Raising public awareness on the problem of SALW;
- Researching the small arms problem in your community;
- Voicing the security and arms control needs of society,;
- Engaging the civilian population in finding a solution;
- Advising the government on how to respond;
- Working with the local government to implement possible solutions;
- Monitoring the government's progress and commitment to the issue.

Civil society groups are in a good position to undertake SALW control activities. They have a special place in society because they are separate from the state and authorities. Quite often they hold the respect of the community and therefore can be influential in changing the SALW problem.

Examples of civil society actors include:

- Registered charities or non-profit groups;
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
- Community groups;
- Women's organizations;
- Faith-based organizations;
- Professional associations;
- Trade unions;
- Self-help groups;
- Social movements;
- Business associations;
- Coalitions and advocacy groups;
- Schools, universities.

Civil society actors have an important role in society, as they can mediate between the national government and the local population.



As civil society groups YOU are the experts on the small arms situation in your own country.

One of the easiest and most effective activities for a civil society group to be involved in is **raising public awareness**.

Raising public awareness is very important in the process of SALW control. The success of any SALW control action depends very much on this element: making people aware of the SALW problem and possible solutions to the problem.



Before you organize any action on small arms, you have to consider the following questions:

1. Who owns small arms and how do they acquire them?
2. Why do people own small arms? What are some reasons why they don't want to give them up?
3. What is the impact of these weapons on the community?

Any small arms action you are planning to carry out should ideally be in cooperation with your local government. By cooperating with them, you can positively influence their policies and actions. In turn, these actions can have a positive impact on your community.

Activities for raising awareness can be in the form of:

1. **Community meetings** to promote discussion, dialogue and cooperation on finding joint solutions to the small arms problem.
2. **Public performances** to help deliver your message in a more entertaining and enjoyable way.
3. **Drawing or designing** posters, signs, pamphlets or other forms of art to help deliver your message.
4. **Dances, celebrations or festivals.** Ideas include a 'dance for a gun-free community', a celebration of peace or a community march to help promote your message.
5. **Reaching out to children and youth** to educate them on the dangers of small arms.

Civil society organizations can also participate in voluntary weapons collection programs by helping to:

- Raise awareness of the program among the community;
- Identify needs for the program's success;
- Encourage communities to participate;
- Evaluate how they were carried out.

Remember: Civil society groups play an important role in the community. You can raise awareness of the problems posed by SALW and help build trust and confidence for activities such as civilian disarmament.

WHAT ABOUT GETTING YOUTH INVOLVED?

Even though they are victims and perpetrators, youth are also part of the solution to armed violence. They should be involved in small arms control activities to:

1. **Reach the community**
 - Youth can influence other youth and the wider community. They can set a good example for their peers.
2. **Provide expertise**
 - Youth affected by small arms and violence are the experts. They know how best to influence their friends to get involved.
3. **Ensure sustainability**
 - Youth are the future of any society and country. Investing in them is investing in the future.

4. **Generate new ideas, energy, capacity**

- Young people bring new skills, ideas and knowledge to the table.

Being involved in small arms control activities is good for youth!

Getting involved will help them:

- Become responsible citizens;
- Choose a peaceful way of life;
- Feel good about themselves and develop new friends;
- Stay in school and develop new skills.

As adults, community members, educators or authorities, it is our responsibility to ensure that all children and youth are protected and have the choice to live a life free of guns and violence!!

BUT HOW DO WE FIND THE MONEY FOR THESE ACTIVITIES?

To conduct small arms control activities, you will most likely need some money. Steps to find funding include:

1. Contacting local or international organizations that work on conflict resolution issues on the ground.
2. Find out if these organizations provide funding on small arms control activities.
3. If so, suggest some of your ideas. They may be willing to work with you in making these ideas a reality.

Even if organizations are willing to support your ideas, you will most likely have to hand in a proposal for funding. Your proposal should cover all of the following areas:

1. **Summary:**
 - A brief description and aim of your idea, along with how much money you will need.
2. **Rationale:**
 - An explanation of why your idea is important to support.
3. **Objectives:**
 - What do you hope to achieve with this idea? What do you aim to change?

4. **Project Partners:**
 - Who will you be working with and how will you divide up the responsibilities?
5. **Methods and Activities:**
 - What will you actually do and how?
6. **Project Timetable:**
 - When will you do the activities?
7. **Staffing Needs:**
 - Who from your organization will be working on this?
8. **Budgeting:**
 - How much will your activities cost?
9. **Monitoring and Evaluation:**
 - How will you determine whether your activities were successful?
10. **Description of your organization**
11. **Conclusion**
 - A summary of your main points and what broader problem your project aims to resolve.

Small arms are a problem for communities in Southern Sudan and throughout the world. However, in many countries civil society groups and individuals have taken successful action to make their communities safe from small arms.

Don't rely on somebody else. Take action yourself!
Start today!

**Together we can make
our communities safe
from small arms!**



RESOURCES

The following sources may be useful for you in learning more about SALW or planning your activities.

United Nations (UN)

The United Nations is responsible for assisting all states in meeting their commitments under the Program of Action (PoA). In particular, the UNDP is responsible for supporting small arms control programs, while the UNODA is responsible for collecting and storing information.

- United Nations Development Program (UNDP) <http://www.undp.org/bcpr/smallarms/>
- United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) <http://disarmament.un.org/cab/salw.html>

UNDP Sudan

Following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, UNDP embarks upon implementation of Promotion of Good Governance and Social Inclusion for Peace building and Recovery.

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Tel/ Fax: +249 811 820146. VSAT Numbers: + 1 646 8625390

UN Mission In Sudan (UNMIS)

UNMIS has been mandated by the UN Security Council to monitor and support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan, which was signed by the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army on 9 January 2005.

UNMIS Headquarters
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Email: ecomment-pio@un.org
Web: www.unmis.org

Regional Organizations

Regional organizations are responsible for promoting and monitoring the implementation of small arms agreements signed by their member states. In Africa, the most relevant organizations include:

- Regional Center on Small Arms (RECSA) <http://www.recsasec.org/>
- Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat <http://www.sadc.int/>
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) <http://www.ecowas.int/>

Civil Society Organizations

In Sudan and East Africa the following civil society groups are already involved in SALW control:

Sudanese Group to Control Use & Trade in SALW
Cross Roads of King Abdel Aziz 4th Street 27
Amarat
Khartoum
SUDAN
warchild@sudanmail.net

Human Security Initiative Organisation (HSIO)
Sharei al Huria - Amarat Osman Alyas 4th Floor No 28
PO Box 7078, Khartoum 11111
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Sudanese Women's Voice for Peace (SWVP)
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BICC

at a glance

BICC is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting peace and development through the efficient and effective transformation of military-related structures, assets, functions and processes. Having expanded its span of activities beyond the classical areas of conversion that focus on the reuse of military resources (such as the reallocation of military expenditures, restructuring of the defense industry, closure of military bases, and demobilization), BICC is now organizing its work around three main topics: *arms, peacebuilding and conflict*. In doing this, BICC recognizes that the narrow concept of national security, embodied above all in the armed forces, has been surpassed by that of global security and, moreover, that global security cannot be achieved without seriously reducing poverty, improving health care and extending good governance throughout the world, in short: without human security in the broader sense.

Arms: To this end, BICC is intensifying its previous efforts in the fields of weaponry and disarmament, not only through its very special work on small arms but also by increasing its expertise in further topics of current concern such as the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, arms embargoes and new military technologies.

Peacebuilding: BICC is extending its work in the area of peacebuilding. In addition to examining post-conflict demobilization and reintegration of combatants and weapon-collection programs, the Center aims to contribute, among other things, to the development of concepts of security sector reform with an emphasis on civilmilitary cooperation, increased civilian control of the military, and the analysis of failed states.

Conflict: BICC is broadening its scope in the field of conflict management and conflict prevention, including tensions caused by disputes over marketable resources and transboundary issues such as water.

These three main areas of analysis are complemented by additional crosscutting aspects, for example, gender, pandemics, or environmental protection.

Along with conducting research, running conferences and publishing their findings, BICC's international staff are also involved in consultancy, providing policy recommendations, training, and practical project work. By making information and advice available to governments, NGOs, and other public or private sector organizations, and especially through exhibitions aimed at the general public, they are working towards raising awareness for BICC's key issues.

While disarmament frees up resources that can be employed in the fight against poverty, conversion maximizes outcomes through the careful management of such transformation of resources. It is in this sense that they together contribute to increasing human security.

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"I call on the Sudanese people to join this peace agreement."

"A new Sudan is possible for there are many people...who believe in the universal ideals of humanity."

**The Late Lt. Gen. Dr. John Garang de Mabior
President of the Government of Southern Sudan**



"On our side as government, we have a disarmament program because we believe these intersectional conflicts are mostly being aggravated by the availability of automatic weapons that are now in the hands of our civil population."

**H.E. Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit
President of the Government of Southern Sudan**



"The permanent solution depends on the people."

"We want peace in Southern Sudan."

**H.E. Lt. Gen. Dr. Riek Machar Teny
Vice-President of the Government of Southern Sudan**

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