



Crises, Conflicts and Development Multifaceted Perspectives to Security

Foreword

An international conference dedicated to the theme of “Crises, Conflicts and Development: Multifaceted Perspectives to Security” was held from 11-12 February 2010 at the University of Helsinki, Finland. The event was organized by the Finnish Society for Development Research (FSDR), Crisis Management Centre (CMC Finland), Finnish University Partnership for International Development (UniPID) and Department of Political and Economic Studies/ Development Studies (University of Helsinki), and brought together over 170 researchers, students, ministry officials and development practitioners from 15 countries. The general aim of the conference was to critically examine security as a multidimensional and multifaceted concept, including its growing interface with international development today.

It is the sincere hope of the conference organizers that this conference brief may highlight the key issues and findings emerging from our conference discussions and debates, and that it may also serve as the basis for further dialogue between academics, policymakers and practitioners about the key challenges and opportunities facing the fields of development, crisis management and peacebuilding.

Key messages emerging from conference deliberations include the following:

- ◆ **The concepts of crisis, conflict and development need to be revisited.** Security in particular has become a catchword in a wide range of contexts, with a diversification in the number and type of crises and human responses involved. As a multidimensional and multifaceted concept, security intertwines with development in various and often intangible ways, necessitating closer academic scrutiny and research.
- ◆ **The link between environmental risks and security cannot be ignored.** It seems that in the future climate change will increase the frequency and diversification of environmentally-induced conflicts, calling for more action-oriented research to find ways to solve natural resource-related crises and prevent conflicts in the future.
- ◆ **Gender mainstreaming should be discussed as a prerequisite** for peacebuilding and sustainable development. The gendered aspects of security and the potentially differentiated roles and impacts of women in all phases of the conflict should be taken into consideration regardless of the types of conflict involved.
- ◆ **Conflict prevention should be prioritized.** The potential role of peace education, individual empowerment and, for example, alternative channels such as the Internet and the arts, should not be overlooked. Overall, there was a call to look beyond the state as the central locus of action and change, and to examine how individuals and networks of new actors contribute to peacebuilding efforts.
- ◆ **Finland’s role in international crisis management should be discussed further** between academics, practitioners and policymakers. One of the key questions that emerged was how academia in general, and Finnish universities in particular, might best contribute to crisis management and peacebuilding efforts.

Reflections: What does peace and conflict resolution mean to you?

Photo Olga Lucia Palacio



NATALI ROJAS (UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ):

“Having grown up in Colombia, from an early age I began to ask myself: How can an individual contribute to peacebuilding in the everyday life?”

For Natali Rojas, a student in the Master’s Programme in Development and International Cooperation at the University of Jyväskylä, the concepts of conflict and crisis are far from abstract. Having spent the first eighteen years of her life in Colombia, Rojas spoke about the challenges of growing up in a society where murders, kidnappings and violence permeate the realities of everyday life. “From an early age, I began to ask myself: How can an individual contribute to peacebuilding in the everyday life? This is how I came to develop an interest in peacebuilding through the arts,” explained Rojas.

Rojas has been actively involved in community arts in her native Colombia, Spain, the United States, and most

recently Finland. In Spain, she discovered the power of folk tales in promoting tolerance and positive relationships among and between immigrant and local children. Rojas gained experience with various arts-based methodologies such as theatre of the oppressed and psychodrama, which instilled in her a strong belief in the power of the arts to transform relationships and conflict between individuals from diverse backgrounds.

It is the culmination of her personal experiences as well as a strong belief in the peacebuilding potential of the arts that prompted Rojas to enroll in the Master’s Programme in Development and International Cooperation at the University of Jyväskylä. As part of her Master’s thesis and fieldwork, Rojas will return to her native Colombia to examine the role of community arts in general, and videography in particular, in building more peaceful relationships between troubled youth in a poorer *barrio* of Bogotá. Upon graduation, Rojas hopes to continue to be active in using and raising awareness about the power of the arts in preventing and transforming conflict in conflict-ridden countries like Colombia.

Rojas expressed very positive remarks about her participation in the ‘Crises, Conflicts and Development’ conference, but felt that the debate about conflict prevention rather than resolution constituted a major gap in the discussions. According to Rojas, “a common understanding of peace is a “lack of conflict”. However, I prefer thinking about peace in positive terms, such as a feeling of belonging to a supportive community. Peace represents values such as respect, tolerance, trust, cooperation and love.”

Having grown up in Colombia, Rojas claims to have always been conscious about the need for the positive transformation of conflict through the promotion of peace. Because the arts involve emotions, expression, reconciliation and interaction, she views this as an excellent mechanism to promote social cohesion and peace in conflict-ridden societies. “Although the arts are still marginalized from the development paradigm, conflict resolution and peacebuilding agendas, I am hopeful that they will be actively used in the future in the process of preventing and transforming conflicts,” concluded Rojas.

LISA MARIKA JOKIVIRTA

Having recently returned from a humanitarian aid mission in Haiti, David Korpela, Senior Planning Officer of the Finnish University Partnership for International Development Network (UniPID) raised the issue of crisis management in relation to natural disasters. It was shocking to witness the extensive damage and

widespread adverse effects of the earthquake, said Korpela. The recent earthquake destroyed the entire infrastructure in parts of the country, and now the process of nation re-building has begun with meetings between officials and aid organisations operating out of tents or gathering under a tree, Korpela added.

Korpela’s first experience with human-

itarian aid was with a Finnish development cooperation organization, Fida International, when he served as an intern working at refugee camps in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. In Finland, Korpela has been coordinating the Finnish University Partnership for International Development (UniPID) network that increases

DAVID KORPELA (UNIPID):

“In crisis situations like Haiti, interventions need to be well-informed and well-planned in order to simply deal with the now.”

collaboration between Finnish universities in development cooperation. Now, his plan is to return to Haiti to coordinate humanitarian aid efforts through Finnish-Church Aid (Kirkon Ulkomaanapu). He emphasized the urgent need to get children back to school to bring some normalcy back into their everyday lives and give them a safe environment to play and interact with each other.

“A big challenge for the development

of the education sector is that before the crisis, only 15% of the schools were government-run public schools. Now we are faced with the question: should the emphasis be placed on the development of public schools, and what might be the current capabilities and capacity of the Ministry of Education to start to re-develop the education sector?” asked Korpela.

The aftermath of the crisis is likely to be extended with the upcoming rainy season and hurricanes later this year. People living in tents or temporary shelters are very vulnerable. Korpela admits that in crisis situations, one has to accept the idea that all interventions are not perfect long-term solutions but are necessary to deal with present circumstances. Rebuilding all the houses before the

end of the year would be the ideal solution but is not feasible given the circumstances.

Korpela very much enjoyed the ‘Crises, Conflicts and Development’ conference, but noted that theoretical discussions of crises are naturally different from the lived experience of the field. He would like to see more value and appreciation given to non-academic practitioners whose knowledge and experience are also an essential part of better understanding the multifaceted perspectives to security surrounding crises, conflicts and development. “Stronger links between humanitarian practitioners and academia are important in better tackling the challenges of this field,” concluded Korpela.

LEENA AKATAMA

PROFESSOR ELNOUR ABDALLA ELSIDDIG:

“Power inequalities must be addressed before community-based empowerment – and thus lasting peace – can be achieved.”

Dr Elnour Abdalla Elsiddig is Professor of Forest Management at the University of Khartoum, Sudan, and was invited to present a keynote lecture on the post-conflict management of natural resources in Darfur. Having worked both as an academic and as a practitioner in the field, Elsiddig spoke about the growing threat posed by environmental risks on human security, and discussed how community-based natural resource management could open up new possibilities for conflict resolution and peacebuilding in Darfur.

Community-based natural resource management is about community empowerment and capacity-building, explained Elsiddig, but this also often requires certain policies and support mechanisms to be in place on the ground. For example, there is a high level of awareness among the local people of Darfur about the benefits of tree planting. However, community members cannot practice tree planting on forest reserves or communal lands, as these are controlled by forest authorities who only grant access on a permit basis. Thus, Sudan’s forest policy might contain state-

ments encouraging local participation in forest management, but local realities often restrict access or ownership to the land. Community empowerment in activities such as treeplanting, noted Elsiddig, can thus be hindered by as simple a question as: who actually owns the land?

Elsiddig particularly spoke about the lack of land rights amongst women in Darfur. Although more than 75% of women are engaged in agricultural activities, and are the main managers of natural resources in Darfur including the primary collectors of wood and non-wood forest products, they constitute the majority of those without access to land. According to Elsiddig, women need to be allowed to develop and empower themselves so that they can maximize their contributions to small-scale income-generating activities, for example as skilled workers of the cottage industry. Issues such as land rights must be addressed so that the potential contributions and roles of women can become fully explored, claimed Elsiddig.

Overall, Elsiddig argued that Sudan will remain unable to resolve its conflicts unless the issues of deforestation and



Photo: Henri Onodera

diminishing natural resources are urgently solved. Neglecting these issues will only exacerbate social and political divides. “It is important to recognize that natural resources are involved in all phases of the conflict cycle,” noted Elsiddig, “all the way from outbreak to spoiling the longer-term prospects for peace.” “Solving the environmental issues of Darfur will require planned use of the land, reversing the declining trend in forest cover, and involving people in community-based natural resource management. That is our hope for recovery,” concluded Elsiddig.

For further reading, please refer to Elnour Abdalla Elsiddig’s book “Jebel Marra: The Potentials for Resources and Rural Development in Darfur” (available for 20€ from the Viikki Tropical Resources Institute, VITRI, via email from Professor Olavi Luukkanen at olavi.luukkanen[at]helsinki.fi)

LISA MARIKA JOKIVIRTA & EMILIE COSTON

Day 1: Keynote Speakers

Photo: Henri Onodera



PROFESSOR MICHAELLE L. BROWERS (WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY, US):

“Could recent developments point to progressive political reform in the Arab World?”

Amidst the daily onslaught of news about conflict in the Middle East, recent developments could point to increasing coordination, collaboration and strategic alliances between oppositional groups that cross ideological and religious divides, argued Professor Michaelle L. Browsers from Wake Forest University in the United States. An expert on contemporary Arab political thought, Browsers spoke about the hope of progressive political reform in the Arab region with the emergence of a new political generation working across ideological divides.

“There are contemporary cases of cross-ideological coordination among various elements that have traditionally opposed each other in the Arab region” asserted Browsers. Drawing on her most recent book entitled “Political Ideology in the Arab World: Accommodation and Transformation”, Browsers’ more recent work has been rooted in the history of political thought and political science, and addresses what Jillian Schwedler has termed “the inclusion-moderation

hypothesis” – the idea that participation in multiparty political processes can lead toward increased willingness to work within existing systems.

According to Browsers, the aim of her address was to respond “to those who think that the protest activity in the Arab region lack antecedents, lack thinking, lack constructive political programs and lack political (or ideological or intellectual) significance”. She emphasized the importance of understanding the history of two ideologies, Arab nationalism and Islamism, that she recognizes have provided the basis for the cross-ideological alliance in the region.

Professor Browsers argued that this cooperation between two historically different ideologies has been encouraged not only by domestic issues (such as closed political systems), but also regional issues (such as lack of progress in Palestine and increased US intervention in Iraq and other parts of the Gulf), global issues (such as globalization and international anti-globalization activism), as well as by the forums, conferences and dialogues that have enabled members of

a wide variety of groups to develop personal relationships and mutual understandings, and which have proven pivotal in coordinating increasing political activities in a number of contexts.

At the end of her talk, Browsers presented the particular case of Egypt’s recent protest activities, where activists from different factions and generations convened in Cairo to speak out against repression towards activists who were denouncing electoral corruption. She thinks these events are remarkable in showing “the emergence of a new political generation, formed through their common experiences of engagement with each other and defiance against authoritarian state institutions”. When asked about democracy within a more collective rather than individualist region as the Arab region might be perceived to be, Browsers says that one of the main challenging tasks of democracy is indeed to bridge both ideas.

In her personal interview, Browsers shared that she became inspired in Arab studies after studying the Arab language. “Once you know the language then you become very interested in the culture.” As a white western women researching politics and ideological history, areas traditionally dominated by men, Browsers does not consider her own identity to be a disadvantage. “Sometimes, being an outsider has even been an advantage. I am seldom accused of being partisan to any one side and, as a western women, I have access to both male and female spheres. I am not excluded from female spheres by virtue of my gender and I am not held to the same standards as Muslim women that might hamper my exclusion in some traditionally male spheres. Really the most significant hurdle researchers in my area face is language: the ability to converse with local activists and read the works of local intellectuals in their own language,” Browsers stated.

JUANITA ROJAS

Financial and economic crises seriously undermine global development and equality”, asserted Professor Wim Naudé, Senior Research Fellow and Project Director at the United Nations University–World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER) in Finland. There is a need to recognize the impact of the recent economic crisis on global development, and to introduce appropriate changes to the regulation and control of global finance.

According to Naudé, the recent financial and economic crisis is a “development emergency” for many developing countries, where its impact on exports, growth and employment in the absence of adequate social security will hamper the ability of households to escape from poverty. Thus it may also raise the risk of conflicts worldwide. In such circumstances, developing countries are also left particularly vulnerable to further crises from natural hazards – such as the impact of the recent earthquake in Haiti has shown. Naudé explained that the recent global economic crisis has challenged the traditional perception of uninterrupted economic growth, but it has also demonstrated that good governance and democracy should be the basis of development.

Aid to the developing world, cautioned Naudé, may be a victim of the global crisis. He also warned about the long term impacts of financial crises, citing the fact that in some ways the impacts of the 1992 Nordic banking crisis on the Finnish economy have still not been overcome, with unemployment rates still higher today than before the 1992 crisis. Interestingly, as a group of net creditors, developing countries’ savings are providing resources for consumption in advanced economies, including bailing out banks. Naudé added that economic recovery is likely to fail unless the oligarchic style of global financial institutions is reformed and bet-

PROFESSOR WIM NAUDÉ (UNU WIDER INSTITUTE, HELSINKI, FINLAND):

“The developing world has been the hardest hit by the recent global economic crisis”



Photo Henri Onodera

ter regulatory systems are introduced.

Although Naudé recognized that crises are also potential moments of transformation, he was not optimistic when describing prospects for the current world economy. The massive bailouts may result in another boom-bust cycle. Referring to the recent Copenhagen Climate Change conference, Naudé pointed out the difficulties of achieving consensus on global public goods. In the financial and economic sector, as with the environment, there is insufficient global agreement and coordination with respect to the crisis. In this context, there remains a pressing need to reform the global financial architecture, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Interestingly, Naudé referred to the differences among regional mass media when reporting about the crisis. In the “North”, economic downturn to a large

extent relates to house markets, food and fuel prices, stock markets and wealth, whereas in the “South”, the crisis has a direct impact on poverty alleviation and longer-term prospects for development. In Africa and Latin America, for example, the newspapers daily refer to debt, dependence, open markets, migrations, wars, and natural disasters in reference to the impacts of the economic downturn.

Naudé called for a global recognition of the causes and mechanisms of the recent economic crisis as well as an acknowledgment of its impacts on global inequality and the increased vulnerability of the poor. Large-scale reforms are needed in order to mitigate the global imbalances and the media, for example, has a very important role to play in awareness raising and promoting these transformations, Naudé concluded.

NATALI ROJAS

Day 1

Photo: World Vision



“Autonomy, capacity, influence, identity, and leadership need to be considered in addressing humanitarian crises,” suggested Dr. Tomi Järvinen, Manager of the Africa Region (International Programs Department) of World Vision Finland and Chair of the ‘Social Movements, Civil Society and Conflicts’ Working Group.

Järvinen emphasized the importance of NGO involvement in strengthening

DR TOMI JÄRVINEN (WORLD VISION FINLAND):

“Autonomy, capacity, influence, identity, and leadership need to be considered in addressing humanitarian crises.”

the role of civil society in reducing risks during the crisis and preventing future conflict situations. During his own working group presentation, Järvinen argued that empowerment aspects have been to a large extent overlooked in crisis interventions. He argued that action research is needed to provide solid information to policy makers and humanitarian crisis practitioners about the specific mechanisms needed to improve humanitarian, relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Järvinen started his career in humanitarian aid and crisis relief when he moved to Tanzania to work with refugees from Rwanda in 1996. After spending twelve years in Africa worked directly with local communities and personally dealing with crisis situations, Järvinen moved back to Finland. Here, he has had the chance to combine both his professional and research interests.

Through his personal experiences, Järvinen is a strong advocate of dialogue between crisis management practitioners and academia. Although he recognizes that in Finland conferences are still

perceived mainly as academic spaces, he foresees future events where NGOs will be more closely involved. It will be very interesting to hear more how different organizations are dealing with crises in different contexts, he suggested.

More specifically, concerning his experience in the ‘Social Movements, Civil Society and Conflicts’ Working Group, Tomi Järvinen described it as an interesting space where a variety of research experiences were discussed. Master’s and Doctoral students shared their research proposals or findings, discussing civil society and social movements from diverse perspectives about within a crisis context in Colombia, Bolivia, Burma, Haiti and Sénégal. The working group particularly benefited from the participation of people with different professional and academic backgrounds. However, as Järvinen noted, the short time given for the presentations and group discussion was a limitation for the brainstorming, exchange of ideas and networking, which is also a key objective in these types of events.

NATALI ROJAS

Snapshot from Working Groups

(4) Gender Equality, Development and Peacebuilding & (5) Integrated and Comprehensive Crisis Management

CHAIRS: DR PIRJO JUKARAINEN & KIRSI HENRIKSSON COORDINATORS: VILLE-VEIKKO PITKÄNEN & JARI MUSTONEN

The working group discussed the implementation of UNSCR 1325, particularly regarding the training of peacekeeping and peacebuilding personnel. Another major point of discussion was the narrow interpretation of UNSCR 1325 and the official UN discourse having a narrow approach to gender (from the point of view of women alone).

The working group also discussed reconciliation (with Rwanda and Colum-

bia as examples) as a precondition to building sustainable peace, as well as the different roles played by regional actors (in this case the ASEAN) in conflict management.

The major outcome of the discussions was the identification of parallel discourses and practices in the field of peacebuilding. The discourses given by politicians, academics as well practitioners on UNSCR 1325 and its implementation do not meet. It is of utmost

importance that the gender issue be taken into account as a major opportunity to enhance development while using different peacebuilding instruments, such as peacekeeping, civilian crisis management and reconciliation.

KIRSI HENRIKSSON

All working group reports are available at:
www.kehitystutkimus.fi/CCD2010WGs.pdf

Dr Irmeli Mustalahti, Academy Research Fellow at the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Helsinki, was Chair of the 'Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Risks' Working Group. She is currently running an Academy of Finland funded research project in Tanzania that analyses how communities could benefit from improved forest management through international funding for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). According to Mustalahti, within the context of research related to natural resources management, we cannot avoid looking into climate crises, conflicting interests in resource utilization and opportunities and concerns in development processes.

There are clear research gaps related to conflicts in natural resource management. According to Mustalahti, "it seems that in the future, climate change will increase these types of conflicts, so new ways to solve the problems and crises related to natural resources are needed. The link between climate change and human security cannot be ignored. More action-oriented research is particularly needed in order to find future solutions as well as avoid conflicts in advance."

Researchers participating in Musta-

DR IRMELI MUSTALAHTI (UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI):

"The Link Between Climate Change and Security Cannot Be Ignored"



Photo: Roland Sundström

lahti's research project traveled from various part of Finland, Italy and the UK to partake in the working group dealing with environmental risks and climate change. She says that this was a very positive experience, particularly as the research team had an opportunity to present some of their findings and discuss future plans. According to Mustalahti, the

working group was also a chance to bring together people from various backgrounds and disciplines to discuss cross-cutting issues such as climate change and natural resource management and their impact on human security and livelihoods. More similar discussion forums should be held in the future, suggested Mustalahti.

LEENA AKATAMA

(6) Legal Pluralism and Human Rights

CHAIR: PROF. AD INT JARNA PETMAN COORDINATOR: HENRI ONODERA

The working group examined the various ways in which legal systems and norms, particularly the international law, are constituted and, at times, contested in Southern development contexts. The participants discussed especially the cases of Liberia and Zambia. It was contended that the problematization of law in itself – a never-ending debate among legal scholars – would greatly benefit development researchers.

Firstly, the notions of law and legality refer to human-made constructs which imply pluralism in themselves, just as moral systems and cultural values are heterogeneous. At the same time, the inter-

national human rights law represents, due to its formal and universalist character, "the rules of the game" which may empower citizens in various forms and fora. The problem is, however, that legal principles are highly abstract and easily adopted as mere political rhetoric, for instance, in legitimizing various forms of interventionism from small-scale capacity building projects to overseas military operations. As such, the formation and instrumental uses of international law cannot be divorced from politics. Secondly, the national legislations in post-colonial countries base on various sources of law, such as the British Common law, executive discretions, customary laws

and local litigation practices as well as the international human rights and property laws that are often backed by international donor agencies. It was suggested that crafting the national legislation in post-conflict situations, such as in Liberia, may benefit from incorporating elements from customary law as a measure to prevent future conflicts between existing social authorities. Finally, concerns were raised as to the methodological challenges in studying legal systems and the ways in which the law functions in and shapes people's everyday lives. One suggested strategy is to focus on specific court cases, such as corruption charges against Zambia's second president Frederick Chiluba, and refer to both text-based analysis and ethnographic research on the legal processes and public debates they engender.

HENRI ONODERA

Day 2: Keynote Speakers



Photo: Henri Onodera

**PROFESSOR ELNOUR ABDALLA ELSIDDIG
(UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM, SUDAN):**

“Deforestation in Darfur isn’t simply an environmental issue – it’s also a human security issue.”

Darfur is facing a serious deforestation crisis, according to Professor Elnour Abdalla Elsiddig from the University of Khartoum. This is not just an environmental issue, asserted Elsiddig, but it is also one directly impacting local livelihoods and fueling conflict within the region.

The savannah forest zone covers almost 40% of Sudan, forming the primary forestland, but much of this has been cleared in recent years, reported Elsiddig. Land clearance for agriculture is largely behind this deforestation crisis, particularly in the savannah zone which contains the most natural resources and is the most densely populated area of the country. 90% of the population in Darfur is dependent on forests as the primary source of natural resources. Fuel wood alone accounts for 70-80% of energy use in both rural and urban communities.

Deforestation can also be closely linked to growing food insecurity in Darfur. A key issue that is often overlooked, and which was raised by UniPID Chairperson Olavi Luukkanen during the group discussion, is that food in dryland Africa mainly comes from forests. This is a fact not commonly understood by the West, and one which is of central importance to understanding the link between deforestation and food security in Africa, noted Luukkanen. Within the context of Darfur, the saying that ‘a hungry man is an angry man’ has indeed proven clear, added Elsiddig.

The intensification of conflict in Darfur mainly involves two groups: the cattle herders or baggara, and the camel herders, or abdalla. These groups used to co-exist in relative harmony and had means of resolving conflicts between tribes. Some were even engaged in inter-marriage, noted Elsiddig. However, diminishing natural resources, coupled with a decrease in rainfall and drought, have led to increasing conflicts over land use and attacks against opposing tribes. Origin and ethnicity only serve to exacerbate the conflict.

In terms of recommendations for the way forward, Elsiddig emphasized the core importance of institutional reform. Currently, there are more than a dozen institutions dealing with forestry issues in Sudan. Progressive forestry policies are already in place, but what is needed is an effective means of implementing these policies. Integrated sectoral planning and an effective forestry institutional structure linking the various institutions will undoubtedly be the key to successful reform, suggested Elsiddig.

Elsiddig concluded by calling for a more participatory approach to natural resource management. This should be based on community capacity-building and acknowledge traditional ecological perspectives, such as agroforestry based on indigenous species. “Development isn’t necessarily about introducing new innovations and technologies. It doesn’t even necessarily have to be complicated,” suggested Elsiddig. “Development can be about maintaining old traditional systems. It can be as simple as preserving or re-planting our forests and trees.”

LISA MARIKA JOKIVIRTA

PROFESSOR AILI TRIPP (UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, US):

“Women’s rights seem to be more advanced in post-conflict African countries than in countries that have not experienced conflict”

Women’s rights are more likely to be addressed in post-conflict African countries than in countries that have not experienced conflict, according to Professor Aili Mari Tripp from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Moreover, the more intense the conflict, the greater the disruptions in social and gender relations.

For example, the proportion of women in African legislatures is 27% in post-conflict compared with 13% in non-conflict countries. Female representation would appear to be high even compared to Scandinavian countries, which are generally lauded for their gender equality. Finland (40%), for example, trails behind Rwanda (56%) and South Africa (45%) in terms of female representation in Parliament.

A similar trend can be discerned with regards to gender quotas. Only 1 post-conflict country versus 21 non-conflict countries in Africa has not introduced a gender quota of any kind. In post-conflict contexts, women are also more likely to be visible in ‘key’ ministries such as defense and finance, rather than merely limited to ‘soft’ areas such as health and education. Here, it is important to note that the ‘post-conflict’ does not signify the end of all violence or conflict, but a significant decrease in its intensity, cautioned Tripp.

Why is it that countries coming out of conflict are more likely to address women’s representation and rights? Tripp identified several reasons that could be behind this trend. During the conflict,

women might share common experiences, leading them to mobilize around a common cause in general, and a gender agenda in particular. Women also tend to be called forth to assume new positions of leadership and authority, Tripp suggested. This has the potential to disrupt traditional gender roles, and open up new opportunities for women to assert themselves. In certain post-conflict situations such as Uganda, Liberia and Mozambique, for example, women have suddenly seen themselves become the heads of universities, politicians, race car drivers, opening up businesses – achieving things that they had previously never thought possible, argued Tripp.

Tripp cautioned against resorting to any sweeping generalizations or ideal-

izations given the diversity of women’s rights and roles across and within African countries. However, evidence would appear to suggest that post-conflict countries have adopted more women-friendly policies than their non-conflict counterparts. For example, 5 out of the 7 African countries that passed legislation on women’s rights to land were post-conflict countries. The latter also tend to be more open to gender-friendly constitutional reforms which, when implemented, are more explicitly worded from a gender perspective.

Has descriptive change translated into substantive change? Will these initial advances in female representation be sustained? Has progress in women’s rights led to progress in other minority (e.g. indigenous or gay/ lesbian) rights? More research is needed, Tripp argued, and her current research project should be seen as only one step towards bridging the significant research gap that currently exists within this field.

LISA MARIKA JOKIVIRTA & LEENA AKATAMA



Photo Hent Onodera

Day 2

Roundtable Discussion:

“How – and to what extent – might Finnish universities contribute to crisis management and peacebuilding efforts?”

Professor Juhani Koponen from the University of Helsinki warmly welcomed the panel members to the roundtable discussion. This was meant to bring together academics, practitioners and ministry officials to discuss the way forward for crisis management research: what are the key opportunities and challenges facing Finland’s role in international crisis management? What might be the role of academia in contributing to more effective and well-informed crisis management, and how can we best bridge the gap that exists between academics and practitioners in the field?

The discussion was rounded with Finland’s role in international crisis management, for example in the Balkans and Afghanistan. There was a general consensus amongst the panel discussants that, as development is a pre-requisite for security and vice versa, broader and more long-term development considerations need to be taken into account. According to Antti Häikiö from the Finnish Ministry of the Interior, Finnish interventions should lean more towards the side of development than security, as most conflicts generally stem from economic instability, food insecurity and scarcity of natural resources.

A conference participant responded to the ministerial officials by arguing that, in addition to ‘development support’, key issues such as arms trade and trafficking need to be addressed. According to the comments of several audience members, a potential gap in the discussions was a focus on conflict prevention rather than conflict resolution: shouldn’t conflict prevention ultimately be prioritized as the most effective peacebuilding tool, with (military) intervention used as the last resort? UniPID Chair-



The panel discussants included (from left to right): Antti Häikiö (National Coordinator, Civilian Crisis Management Training, Finnish Ministry of Interior), Dr Olli Ruohomäki (Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Kirsi Henriksson (Head of Research and Development, Crisis Management Center Finland), Professor Juhani Koponen (Panel Chair, University of Helsinki), Professor Elnour Abdalla Elsiddig (University of Khartoum, Sudan) and Professor Olavi Luukkanen (UniPID Chair, University of Helsinki).

person Olavi Luukkanen noted that Finland should at the very least involve itself in countries where it has experience, understanding, and trust. This type of informed approach could enable Finland to develop and even export its model of international intervention in this field, added Kirsi Henriksson, Head of Research and Development at the Crisis Management Center in Finland.

Considerable attention was diverted to the relationship between researchers and practitioners in the crisis management field. There was a general consensus that academia has a central role to play in providing well-informed analysis about security-related issues and the broader contexts surrounding these. Dr Olli Ruohomäki from the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, for instance, emphasized the core importance of all Finnish intervention being grounded in solid research. What is needed, according to Ruohomäki, is widespread public debate and policy briefs featuring future-oriented trends analysis in order to inform future decision-making. Several university representatives from the panel chal-

lenged Ruohomäki’s claim by raising the question: will the need for more crisis management research be met with increased and adequate funding to undertake this research?

Antti Häikiö from the Finnish Ministry of the Interior pointed out that writing about crisis management is not equal to practicing crisis management. According to Häikiö, a large disparity between theory and the reality on the ground exists. It was acknowledged that academia has a longstanding tradition of involvement in the crisis management field. However, Häikiö and Ruohomäki argued that there is a pressing need for Finnish universities to more clearly and concisely communicate the findings of their research to policy-makers and prove the direct relevance to the crisis management field. This is simply due to growing pressures to justify to taxpayers the value of increased funding to security-related research, Häikiö remarked.

Luukkanen challenged ministry officials by noting that many examples already exist attesting to the more practice-oriented contributions of Finnish

universities to the crisis management field. The potential of initiatives such as the Higher Education-focused Institutional Cooperation Instrument (HE-ICI), for example, should not be overlooked in terms of longer-term capacity-building in the South, added Luukkanen. Professor Elnour Abdalla Elsiddig supported Luukkanen's claim, drawing on the exam-

ple of the longstanding cooperation between the University of Khartoum, Sudan, and the University of Helsinki in terms of local capacity-building and shared knowledge about the links that exist between natural resource management and conflict in Darfur.

Overall, the university panelists left ministry officials with a key challenge:

how might the Finnish government best maximize the potential contributions of academia to crisis management and peacebuilding activities, and will more research funding be made available for Finnish universities to rise up to this potential role?

LISA MARIKA JOKIVIRTA & LEENA AKATAMA

Photo CMC Finland



VILLE-VEIKKO PITKÄNEN (CMC FINLAND):

“Gender mainstreaming can be a challenging task in a country like Finland, where gender equality is often taken for granted.”

particularly engaging. Pitkänen reiterated that gender and peacebuilding are themes still needing to be further developed within the development and international cooperation field, and in this sense conferences such as this one very much represent a step in the right direction.

Pitkänen described his work of gender mainstreaming within the activities and organization of CMC Finland as a challenging task, mainly because gender is an abstract concept and an aspect that involves every action in our everyday lives. He particularly spoke about the difficulties he has encountered as a trainer for civilian crisis management personnel in Finland, where gender issues are often taken for granted due to the country's reputation and inherited assumptions about gender equality. According to Pitkänen, “you might be very aware and even a strong advocate of equality between women and men, but the real practice of gender equality becomes more complicated when analyzing how you act in your everyday life, for instance at home. Gender values permeate our lives from a very early age, and this is why it

is very difficult to change such deeply engrained and internalized ideas.”

CMC has diverted considerable attention to tackling the challenge of gender mainstreaming across its personnel training, activities and organization. At present, CMC recruits female civilian crisis management experts in order to increase and equalize female participation within the organization, and has adopted a more broad perspective concerning the issue. CMC has developed a socio-constructive approach to training in order to make this a participatory experience whereby each participant can provide special input into the training and is able to analyze the gender biases within his or her own experience of gender. This is not an easy task, Pitkänen reiterated, as it is often difficult to measure our gender sensitivities, but this is what CMC is trying to improve. “Developing a gender perspective, Pitkänen added, means that we must come to view gender as concerning both men and women, and the whole society, and peace-building activities should be no an exception to this broader and more inclusive view.”

JUANITA ROJAS

Ville-Veikko Pitkänen, gender specialist and researcher at Crisis Management Center (CMC) Finland, spoke about his experiences of gender mainstreaming within the activities of CMC, recognizing the positive work being carried out by CMC as well as the challenges that still remain in the field.

Pitkänen strongly feels that this conference had a positive outcome. He found the debates held at the end of every presentation in the ‘Gender Equality, Peacebuilding and Development’ working group that he was coordinating to be



Concluding Remarks

Twenty years after the end of the Cold War, ten years after the UN Millennium Declaration, and where do we stand? Well, in the middle of global economic crises – but, hopefully, now with a better understanding of the need for global economic regulation.

It is true that violent conflicts continue in a large number of poor countries. Yet, by now we should know to better appreciate the potential of women's movements in peacebuilding and democratization.

The sad fact is that development still remains a distant hope for at least a billion people. But we should already have learned something about how natural resources management affects the choices of poor people, and thereby the chances for peaceful solutions.

Above I have listed some lessons that I feel having learned from some of the key note lectures. They all bear witness to the possibility that development research can make a change in how we understand – and react to – challenges posed by global unequal development. So does the large number of young students and scholars actively participating in the conference.

Altogether, my impression is that during this year's conference, we had thought-provoking lectures, inspiring presentations and vibrant discussions, all in the best academic manners. Thanks to all the participants for making it true!

DR LAURI SIITONEN, CHAIRPERSON (2009-2010),
FINNISH SOCIETY FOR DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

Snapshot from Working Groups (2) Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Risks

CHAIR: DR IRMELI MUSTALAHTI COORDINATOR: LISA MARIKA JOKIVIRTA

This working group convened over a two-day period to discuss themes of environmentally induced conflict, where climate change, livelihood and human security are directly linked. The first day was devoted to examining multi-faceted issues in climate change, including natural disasters, food security, diminishing natural resources and the gendered aspects of climate change. The second day was more specifically focused on the United Nations Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN REDD) Initiative.

It was acknowledged that climate change is not simply an environmental issue – it is also a human one. It was emphasized that although REDD, for example, is surely about forests, it is ultimately about the communities living within them. A healthy dose of criticism is thus required with regards to the implementation of mechanisms such as REDD: to what extent does REDD promote community capacity-building so that the local people are able to monitor the results? What is the longer-term sustainability of REDD? Is it likely to lead

to poverty alleviation, and are key considerations such as gender equity being addressed? In terms of land ownership, who actually owns the land? What kind of security or sustainability can be ensured if local community members are without rights to land ownership?

There was a general consensus that the theoretical and conceptual grounding of the link between climate change and human security needs to be deepened and diversified. A critical approach is required, one which takes into account the power structures embedded in human-nature and North-South relations. The need for gender mainstreaming in climate change research and policy was also emphasized. Participants called for more research and sex-disaggregated data to further explore the potentially differentiated role of women in adaptation and mitigation as well as to diversify the rather simplistic understanding of the climate change-gender link that currently exists.

LISA MARIKA JOKIVIRTA

All working group reports are available at:
www.kehitystutkimus.fi/CCD2010WGs.pdf

Finnish Society for Development Research

Chair: Tiina Kontinen, Vice-chair: Henri Onodera, Secretary: Irmeli Mustalahti
Treasurer: Mika Korkeakoski, Board members and ★vice-members (2010-2011)

Reijo E. Heinonen
★ Lauri Siitonen
Lisa Marika Jokivirta
★ Marja Järvelä
Mira Käkönen
★ Mika Korkeakoski
Eija Ranta-Owusu
★ Irmeli Mustalahti

Mikko Perkiö
★ Henni Alava
David Korpela
★ Sanna Hast
Leena Akatama
★ Abdalla Ali Duh
Marja Suomela
★ Katariina Paakkanen

Contact persons
Tiina Kontinen,
tiina.kontinen@helsinki.fi
Irmeli Mustalahti,
irmeli.mustalahti@helsinki.fi
For more information on
the FSDR and its activities:
www.kehitystutkimus.fi