

## **CHALLENGES PROJECT PRESENTATION II**

Annika Hilding Norberg  
Project Leader

I join Ambassador Sahlin in expressing our deep gratitude to our Turkish colleagues and generous hosts who have organized it in a very professional, hospitable and generous way. The seminar promises to be both thought- provoking and fruitful.

This is the 13<sup>th</sup> seminar in the framework of the Challenges Project. The first phase of the project was brought to a close by the presentation of a Concluding Report by the Foreign Minister of Sweden, the late Anna Lindh, on behalf of all the Partners of the Project, to Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan at UN Headquarters, New York, on 25 April 2002. The report made recommendations to troop contributing countries, informed Member States on current peace operations developments and contributed to the process of reform of UN peace operations. The report was a product of a series of seminars held during the previous five years in nine countries around the world and attended by a wide range of highly experienced civilian and military peacekeepers and academics from some 230 organizations and 50 countries. Subsequently, Partners agreed to a second phase of the Challenges Project, addressing some of the specific challenges identified in the Phase I Concluding Report, and to report again in 2005.

As recognized in the background paper for this seminar; it is clear that the implementation and practice of peace does not stand still: in a world that is constantly subject to change, reform has to be a continuing activity. The project, beginning with a first seminar in Stockholm in 1997, is a living and evolving process.

The objective of the project is to foster and encourage a culture of cross-professional cooperation and partnership with the primary objective of making practical recommendations that will benefit the effectiveness and legitimacy of multinational and multidisciplinary peace operations.

The Challenges Project is a joint effort by a multiplicity of Partner Organizations around the world. The following organizations form the steering group of the project:

- Folke Bernadotte Academy of Sweden (in cooperation with the Swedish Armed Forces, National Defence College, and the National Police Board),
- Russian Public Policy Centre,
- Jordan Institute of Diplomacy,
- Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria,
- United States Institute of Peace,
- United Services Institution of India,
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan,

- Pearson Peacekeeping Centre of Canada,
- Argentine Armed Forces Joint Staff (in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs),
- Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law (in cooperation with the Australian Defence Force),
- Turkish Centre for Strategic Research of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in cooperation with the National Police Directorate and the University of Bilkent),
- China Institute for International Strategic Studies.

The overall project is coordinated by the Folke Bernadotte Academy in cooperation with the Swedish Armed Forces, National Police Board and National Defence College.

Discussions on the practice and theory of peace operations are combined with issues of education and training. Additional organizations that have contributed to the project effort!with their perspectives on the issues are the following:

- CENCAMEX Gendarmerie Peacekeeping Training Centre, Argentina
- Commonwealth of Independent States HQ for Military Cooperation & Coordination
- Partnership for Peace Training Centre of Turkey
- Royal Police Academy of Jordan
- South African Army War College
- Swedish International Centre
- United Service Institution of India Centre for UN Peacekeeping
- UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations Training and Evaluation Service
- UN Institute for Training and Research Programme of Correspondence
- United States Army Peacekeeping Institute
- Vystrel Peacekeeping Academy, Russian Federation
- Zarqa Peacekeeping Centre, Jordan

The multitude of financial contributors and sponsors of the overall project illustrate the truly multinational character of the effort, and include the governments, armed forces and/or police of:

- Argentina
- Australia
- Canada
- China
- India
- Japan
- Jordan
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Russian Federation
- South Africa
- Sweden
- Turkey
- United States

Moreover, important contributions have been made by the following organizations:

- AusAID of Australia
- Defence Corporate Services & Infrastructure, Australia
- Hanns Seidel Foundation
- Jordan Radio & Television Corporation
- Kluwer Law International
- London School of Economics
- Jordan Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities
- NATO Information & Liaison Office
- Royal Court of Jordan
- Susan & Elihu Rose Foundation
- UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations
- University of Melbourne, Australia
- University of Bilkent, Turkey

Finally, the project coordination is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Armed Forces and National Police Force of Sweden.

**So, what are we going to do in the second phase of the project, between now and 2005?**

A review of the conclusions and recommendations of the Concluding Report of Phase I of the Challenges Project in April 2002, the Secretary-General's Report to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations<sup>1</sup>, the report of that committee's March 2003 meeting<sup>2</sup>, recent statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and the Partner Organizations' discussions in Sweden in May 2003, provides a list of topics, sub-topics and questions that seem worthy of study:

- a. what should be the respective roles of the United Nations and regional organizations?
- b. what are the ways and means of strengthening regional capacities, particularly in Africa?
- c. how do we most effectively
  - further improve multinational, multicultural and multidisciplinary cooperation and coordination?
  - explore more deeply complexities related to the rule of law, preventive action and peace-building
  - strengthen training and education
  - integrate lessons learned and best practices into operational planning,
  - enhance rapid deployment
  - minimize disciplinary problems
- d. what are the approaches and methods of achieving good media relations
- e. what types of expertise should the UN be preparing to potentially include in future operations, in order to ensure that such involvement is well informed?

---

<sup>1</sup> UN document A/57/711 of 16 January 2003

<sup>2</sup> UN document A/57/767 of 28 March 2003

- f. how involved should DPKO or a UN peace operation be in security sector reform?

The evolving nature of these challenges points to issues relevant for our discussion here in Ankara:

- g. what are the important implications of change for Member States?
- h. how can governments, with differing resources and capabilities, best respond?
- i. what might be some of the most helpful ways in which Member States could support UN peace operations?

The primary target of the Challenges Project continues to be the Member States, rather than the UN Secretariat and its agencies and programmes. An appropriate aim for the event concluding the second phase could be the sharing of findings and recommendations with policy makers to influence policy at the national level and stimulate follow-up action at regional, national and sub-national levels and in multinational fora.

The Challenges 2005 concluding event will take place some eleven months after the presentation of the report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, appointed by the Secretary-General on 4 November, 2003. If that report contains issues relating to peace operations, it would prove fruitful and opportune for the Member States and the Project to take them into account for the 2005 report.

Leading up to the 2005 event, in general terms the Project Partners are looking to do the following:

- Conduct four international seminars: building on the seminar findings here in Turkey, colleagues in Nigeria and China will host the next two seminars. A fourth seminar is tentatively planned in a country yet to be determined.
- The project partners will intensify research, with a view to developing practical recommendations and strategies for their implementation to enhance the international capacity to conduct multinational peace operations.

This is suggested to be done by way of:

- Continue to publish Challenges Seminar Reports (nos. 13, 14, 15, and 16)
- Encourage Partners, based on the findings of the seminars, to develop and provide input to the United Nations.
- Encourage Partners to continue contributing seminar findings to journals, as has been done for the International Peacekeeping Yearbook, the International Peacekeeping Journal, the Diplomatic Journal of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and now Perceptions.
- Seek to continue increase the available literature on peace operations in the official languages of the UN: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. as we did by publishing the Executive Summary of the Phase I Concluding Report in all six languages.

The development of useful findings and practical recommendations is essential to our effort in the next few days. In addition, the activities in the margins of the seminars are aimed at encouraging informal contacts and new cooperative ventures to flourish. For example, to date, spin-offs from the Challenges process have included training and education exchanges, cooperation between partner organizations and countries, a contribution towards the establishment of an Early Warning Centre for Africa, and cooperation on book and journal projects.

Finally, the Challenges Project web-site ([www.peacechallenges.net](http://www.peacechallenges.net)) has been updated thanks to our very hard-working and professional colleague, Charlotte Svensson.

We all look forward to this seminar. We welcome your contributions to and participation in the evolving Challenges Project.