

Session 1

Conflict Prevention and Development Cooperation in Africa: Linking Freedom from Fear and Freedom from Want

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Abstract

The concept of human security combines two concerns: freedom from want and freedom from fear. Both are essential to securing human lives, and so are valuable ends in themselves. They are also both essential to global security because today's wars are increasingly fought in the world's poorest countries, and have spillover effects. Until recently, these two objectives have been pursued as separate projects with separate policies and instruments. However, recent research has shown that freedom from want and freedom from fear are inter-related; war causes poverty, but certain types of development failures are associated with war. Research on civil wars has identified several important socio-economic correlates of civil war; the presence of such factors would raise the risks of conflict, and include over-dependence on natural resources, high levels of horizontal inequalities and ethnic exclusion, demographic patterns dominated by a 'youth bulge' combined with youth unemployment, and environmental pressures related to migration patterns. These represent risk factors for future conflict. This paper argues that development policies—economic, social and governance reform—can raise or reduce these risk factors. The policies of the international community can also exacerbate or reduce these risk factors. The paper examines some examples of recent development policies and proposes more attention to addressing these risk factors. It then examines current development cooperation policies in the light of these objectives.

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Academic Degrees

1971	BA (Hons)	Social & Political Sciences, University of Cambridge, UK
1973	MALD	Development Studies, The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA
1976	MA	Economics, University of Sussex, UK

Field of Study

Human Development

