



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**FOREWORD TO THE INTEGRATED
DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION STANDARDS**
December 2006

The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants and those associated with armed groups is a prerequisite for post-conflict stability and recovery. Of course, there can be no substitute for national leadership and the political commitment of warring parties to disarm and demobilize. But in a peacekeeping environment, a successful DDR programme depends heavily on the ability of the United Nations system to plan, manage and implement a coherent and effective DDR strategy.

As a leading partner in this work, the United Nations is well placed to collate knowledge and to develop common standards. These *Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS)*, along with their accompanying *Operational Guide to the IDDRS* and *DDR Briefing Note for Senior Managers*, draw upon the accumulated experiences, lessons learnt and best practices of the United Nations system. Developed jointly by staff members from peacekeeping missions, UN country teams and headquarters, they provide guidance and operational tools for all aspects of the DDR process. They are also intended to serve as a repository of new knowledge by means of the UN DDR Resource Centre (www.unddr.org).

I introduced the IDDRS in my report to the General Assembly (A/60/705), and this guidance now forms the substantive basis on which Member States engage with and support DDR programmes. The IDDRS have also been formally adopted by all 15 members of the Inter-Agency Working Group on DDR, as well as the United Nations Executive Committee on Peace and Security. This means they are the definitive resource for all our staff working on DDR issues, at every level in headquarters, integrated missions and UN country teams, and will be the reference from which all current and future programmes are planned, implemented and reviewed.

As with all guidance documents, the IDDRS need to be tailored to the specific context of our work; they also need to be updated regularly to reflect the latest lessons and needs. I hope that all colleagues and partners working in this vital area will find the IDDRS a useful tool, and I encourage you to provide feedback and comments so that our knowledge in this evolving field can be expanded continuously.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', written over a horizontal line.

Kofi A. Annan