



HELSINKI PROCESS REVIEW CONFERENCE 2007

PEACE AND SECURITY SESSION

THE ROLE OF NON-STATE ACTORS IN PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY

1. AIM OF THE SESSION

This session builds on the discussions of the 'Promoting Political Participation as an Alternative to Extremism' and 'Towards a Process for Cooperation and Security in West Asia - North Africa' Roundtables hosted by the Majlis el Hassan, the 'Religions in Search of Peace' and 'A Multi-Stakeholder Approach to Shared Security - the Role of Religions' Roundtables hosted by the World Conference of Religions for Peace and the 'Democracy and Security—Which One First?' Roundtable hosted by the International Centre for Democratic Transition. The aim of the session is to explore the different roles non-state actors already play or could play in the future in promoting peace and security by discussing the specific contributions non-state actors could make to confidence and trust building, the challenges of improving both democracy and security in unstable environments and the possibilities for non-state actors to contribute to resolving individual crises, especially in the Middle East.

2. BACKGROUND/POLITICAL CONTEXT

Globalisation has brought with it a fundamental change in world politics—states, traditionally seen as the only legitimate players on the international stage, have been joined by other stakeholders, such as international organisations, civil society organisations, business actors and religious actors. Even in the realm of peace and security, new threats have emerged which go beyond traditional security threats. Threats such as communicable diseases, cross-border organized crime, trafficking and drugs, terrorism or even climate change threaten not only states as such but their citizens directly. State security and human security have become intertwined.

During the First Phase of the Helsinki Process, a call was made for an innovative approach to global problem-solving that questions traditional thinking, seeks to forge new coalitions for action, and helps marshal the political will and power of governments to bring about far-reaching and transformative change. It was, however, also recognised that peace and security are globally indivisible in today's world. No one can enjoy full peace and security if some do not, and full security is never achieved by states alone but rather in collaborations of governments, civil society, communities and businesses, in partnerships of common purpose.

Despite the growing recognition that solving global problems requires the joint efforts of different stakeholders, concrete proposals as to what the role of different stakeholders could be are relatively few and far between, especially in the realm of peace and security. During the Second Phase of the Helsinki Process, the role of different stakeholders in promoting peace and security has been further explored in three Roundtables: Developing a Process of Cooperation and Security in West Asia - North Africa, The Role of Religious Communities in Peace Processes and Democracy and Security—Which One First.

3. KEY QUESTIONS:

- How can non-state actors contribute to confidence and trust building?
- What are the particular challenges for improving both democracy and security in unstable environments?
- What are the possibilities for non-state actors to contribute to resolving crises in the Middle East?

4. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RELATED HELSINKI PROCESS INITIATIVES

Promoting Political Participation as an Alternative to Extremism and Towards a Process for Cooperation and Security in West Asia - North Africa hosted by the Majlis el Hassan

The Helsinki Group concluded that even if traditional threats to security can be ameliorated, violations of human rights, conflicts fuelled by ethnic, religious and other divides, the persistence of poverty and the marginalisation and humiliation of many people create the breeding grounds for hate, violence, extremism and even terrorism.

Building on the discussions of the Helsinki Group, the Amman Roundtable meeting focussed upon four interrelated issues: the root causes of extremism, the human dignity deficit, developing the Middle-East Citizens' Assembly and creating a process for cooperation and security in West Asia - North Africa (WANA). The meeting emphasised in particular the need for developing regional cooperation in WANA and the importance of finding sustainable solutions to both short- and long-term problems in the region.

The Islamabad Roundtable meeting continued the discussions started in Amman, and focussed upon four interrelated issues: 1) opening the channels of communication to build a WANA concept, 2) creating a process for cooperation and security in WANA, 3) empowering the powerless in the region, and 4) moving forward with a process for cooperation and security. Participants considered the role of NGOs in furthering regional cooperation, the value of so-called Track 1, 2 and 1½ networking within and beyond the WANA region, and the potential of a regional Social Charter, Energy and Water Community and Cohesion Fund in initiating cooperation.

Religions in Search for Peace and A Multi-Stakeholder Approach to Shared Security - the Role of Religions hosted by the World Conference of Religions for Peace

The role of religions in the peace, security, and development nexus was identified by the Helsinki Conference 2005 as one possible method for mobilising political will. Religious practices and leaders have access to a great majority of the people confronted by different threats, and developing regional cooperation among them could help in developing common goals and securing funding for dealing with these threats.

The Kyoto Roundtable meeting built on the conclusions of the Helsinki Conference, as well as some of the discussions of the Amman Roundtable, and addressed the relationship between religion and politics as well as the participation of religious communities in promoting peace. The meeting called for the further exploration of the specific role religious organisations could play in conflict resolution and peace building.

As a follow-up to the Kyoto Roundtable, a Roundtable meeting was organised in Alexandria to discuss: 1) involving religious organisations in the security discourse, 2) the role of religions in conflict resolution, and 3) what religious assets could be mobilised to help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and which processes and instruments are available. The Roundtable concluded that religious organisations need training and resourcing, especially at the local level, in order to be more prepared to engage in inter-religious as well as multi-stakeholder cooperation in post-conflict environments. In addition to the valuable social assets which the networks of religious communities can provide, participants suggested that religions organisations could play an important role by giving a human face to extremists and engaging them in dialogue, defending the rights of minorities and dispelling religio-cultural suspicion and mistrust. In the case of the Palestinian territories, the creation of an inter-religious council was seen as a priority initiative.

Democracy and Security - Which One First? hosted by the International Centre for Democratic Transition

The nexus between democracy and security was a major theme throughout the First Phase of the Helsinki Process. Although security is a prerequisite of democracy, the best protection and often only long-term solution for maintaining security is a democratic state. With regards to particular security risks, however, the premises of democracy and security often contradict each other—finding the delicate balance between them, and improving both security and democracy at the same time, is often the paramount challenge faced by new and fragile democracies.

Building on these premises, the Budapest Roundtable discussed how to provide for security and democracy in transitional democracies, how to prevent state failure and how to ensure sustainable democratisation and the rights of all groups in society. The meeting concluded that simply reinforcing the capacity of the security sector is not sufficient for improving the security situation within a country in transition—good governance is also needed to provide legitimacy to the new government. The international community should adopt a more comprehensive approach to security sector reform and state-building, based on closer cooperation between different stakeholders, civil as well as military. Participants also stressed the importance of an early process of reconciliation and positive incentives, such as regional cooperation or integration, for the success of any process of democratisation.



HELSINKI PROCESS REVIEW CONFERENCE 2007

POVERTY AND DEVELOPMENT SESSION

THE INTERFACE BETWEEN NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC POLICIES

1. AIM OF THE SESSION

The session builds on the discussions of the 'Innovative Development Finance' Roundtable hosted by Brazil, the 'Growth and Employment' Roundtable hosted by Tanzania, and the 'Effective Global Governance' Roundtable hosted by Malaysia. The aim of the session is to examine the interface between national and global economic policies by considering how developing countries could both best utilise their existing policy autonomy and gain more of it within the context of the global economy, how the global economic framework could best support national development programmes, and what innovative measures and new forms of cooperation between different stakeholders could be envisaged at the national and global levels.

2. BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

Globalisation is undoubtedly a global phenomenon, but its experience and impact is not the same in all parts of the world. The most keenly felt tension is the sense that globalization creates greater inequality in an already unequal world—indeed one of the major ethical challenges we face today is the rapid increase in wealth of a minority of people while billions continue to live in abject poverty.

At the same time as globalisation has promoted the emergence of a global market, global decision-making in economic and social affairs has become less democratic, participatory and transparent as the resources, mandate and influence of the UN has eroded while the power and mandate of the IMF, World Bank and WTO have expanded.

The impact of changes in global economic decision-making and global macroeconomic priorities—from the Keynesian definition of macroeconomic stability in terms of achieving external and internal balance, maintaining full employment and stable economic growth accompanied by low inflation to an emphasis on fiscal balance and price stability over growth and employment objectives—has perhaps been felt most strongly by developing countries, whose policy autonomy has been narrowed by loan conditions, trade rules and structural adjustment programs. In recent years, efforts have been made to shift policy control over their macroeconomic policy back to developing countries, and one of the key challenges for developing countries is how to best make use of this shift and undertake more coherent policies for stimulating development, employment and growth.

The task ahead, however, is not only to create the policy space for a better integration of macroeconomic policies with the poverty reduction strategy, but also to ensure that the way this is done is credible to all domestic stakeholders. The three Roundtables on Innovative Development Finance, Employment and Growth and Effective Global Governance have discussed possibilities for raising new kinds of funds for development (ones not dependent on the internal politics of donors), reforms which would be needed in international financial institutions and rules, as well as how to develop more effective national institutions and coherent national development policies based on consensus.

3. KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE PANELLISTS:

- How can developing countries gain more policy autonomy and best make use of it?
- How can the global economic framework best support national development programmes?
- What innovative measures and new forms of cooperation between different stakeholders could be taken at the national and global levels?

4. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RELATED HELSINKI PROCESS INITIATIVES

Innovative Development Finance hosted by Brazil

The Helsinki Process Track on the Global Economic Agenda examined different proposals for new sources of development finance, on the basis of their feasibility, their fund-raising potential, their 'flexible geometry' and their additionality. The Helsinki Conference continued discussions on innovative development finance and concluded that any new source of development finance must avoid crowding-out existing sources of financing, such as ODA, and it must also be implementable by a significant subset of countries instead of requiring agreement from all donor countries.

Building on these discussions, the Rio de Janeiro Roundtable examined the current status of implementation of initiatives such as the Solidarity Levy on International Travellers, the International Financial Facility and a Currency Transaction Tax or Levy, discussed Brazilian experiences from innovative development finance, and proposed actions for the way forward.

Growth and Employment hosted by Tanzania

Building on the discussion of the Helsinki Conference, as well as the outcome of the Rio Roundtable, the Dar es Salaam Roundtable focused on the implications of debt cancellation, the increased policy autonomy and the development of an environment conducive to growth and employment, in particular in the African context. The meeting also emphasised the need to develop the domestic market in stead of focusing on international trade and the need to identify ways to draw the informal sector into the formal economy.

The meeting recommended examining the experiences and effects of debt cancellation and increased policy autonomy in three or more African countries, launching two or three country-level projects in different fields to examine the effects in practice, and organise a continent-wide meeting to introduce the findings and recommendations of the case studies and projects.

Effective Global Governance hosted by Malaysia

Building the discussions at the Helsinki Conference, as well as on the recommendations of the Track on New Approaches to Global Problem-Solving, the Kuala Lumpur Roundtable discussed proposals for improving the representation of developing countries in global economic decision-making and how national policies could help countries reap benefits from the process of globalisation, as well as how to enhance the synergy between global and national economic governance.

The Roundtable suggested ways of making the multilateral trading system more democratic and more development oriented in its approach, e.g. by promoting decision-making processes in which all countries can participate, preparations for the Financing for Development Conference to be held during the second half of 2008 in Doha in order to solidify the vague objectives of the Monterrey Consensus into more concrete commitments and recommended strengthening the role of ECOSOC in global economic governance. The meeting also explored ways to develop national economic policies that deal with integration or interaction with the global economy in strategic or selective ways that can bring about benefits whilst avoiding risks.



HELSINKI PROCESS REVIEW CONFERENCE 2007

HUMAN RIGHTS SESSION:

AN INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS BASED APPROACH TO GLOBAL POLICY MAKING

1. AIM OF THE SESSION

This session builds on the work of the International Migration Road Map facilitated by Mexico, the Human Trafficking Road Map facilitated by Thailand and the Gender Equality Road Map facilitated by South Africa. The aim of the session is to discuss the possibilities of developing a more individual rights based approach to global policy making by considering how the rights of the individual could be given more importance in global policy making, how national interest could be reconciled with individual interest and how regional and multi-stakeholder cooperation could help to develop such a rights based approach.

2. BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

In the current era of globalisation, international norms and institutions for the protection of human rights are more developed than at any previous point in history, and the idea of human rights is no longer peripheral to political debate. The ratification of key international human rights treaties, including those that pertain to ensuring the human rights of women and girls, has steadily progressed, but a major gap remains between commitments and concrete actions. At the same time assaults on fundamental human dignity continue and the rights of individuals have come to depend ever more on a broad array of global actors and forces, from states to international organisations and civil society actors.

During the First Phase of the Helsinki Process the Track on Human Security concluded that the pursuit and realisation of human rights begins with the principle that every person has a right to know their rights—and to know how to claim the protection of those rights. The political fact is that the powerless lack the means to make that claim and must be empowered to do so. Human security empowers societies to rethink the deepest purposes of governance, inside countries and throughout the global community—and to act with best effect. The chief characteristic of globalisation is the interdependence that now embraces us all. Human security policy and action empower us to seize the advantages of our interdependence—and to redeem our shared obligation to a sustainable and democratic future.

During the Second Phase of the Helsinki Process, special emphasis has been put on three specific challenges threatening the security and rights of individuals: international migration, human trafficking and violence against women. These themes were selected by three Friends of the Helsinki Process governments—Mexico, Thailand and South Africa—at the Helsinki Conference 2005 to be further developed and promoted at various international fora, in particular within the UN. The so called Road Maps built on the discussions of the First Phase of the Helsinki Process and called for the strengthening of the international legal framework related to international migration, human trafficking and gender equality, such as the ratification and effective implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, the International Convention against All Forms of Discrimination against Women and Security Council Resolution 1325. At the same time the Road Maps highlighted the rights of individuals—migrant workers, victims of human trafficking and domestic violence—and the responsibility of states and regions to protect those rights. It was also noted that in order to effectively tackle these challenges, cooperation between states and different officials is not sufficient. Instead, we should focus on building alliances among all relevant stakeholders to ensure the rights of all individuals at risk.

3. KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE PANELLISTS

- How to ensure that the rights of the individual are respected in global policy making?
- How to reconcile national interest with individual interest?
- What is the role of regional and multi-stakeholder cooperation in highlighting the rights based approach?

4. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RELATED HELSINKI PROCESS INITIATIVES

International Migration facilitated by Mexico

The Road Map aims to promote a comprehensive and coherent approach to the different aspects of migration and a new culture on migration, taking into consideration that international migration is a process that takes place within contexts impacted by the economic, demographic, political, historical and socio-cultural conditions and trends related to migration.

Building on the recommendations by the Helsinki Group and Human Security Track, Mexico organised a multi-stakeholder meeting in July 2006 to examine the report of the Global Commission for International Migration, entitled "Migration in an Interconnected World: New Directions for Action" and to prepare for the UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The meeting stressed that a key task for international community is to turn international migration into a positive force for development, and to focus on the situation of the migrants themselves. Short term responses should give way to long term, comprehensive strategies and solutions, which requires going beyond traditional approaches that are limited to migration management and to adopt integral approaches that take into consideration the causes and effects of migration, and places the migrant person in the centre of every migration policy.

Human Trafficking facilitated by Thailand

The Road Map aims to promote the effective implementation of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children. The Road Map also calls for strengthening the protection system against trafficking in persons and strengthening international legal cooperation to combat human trafficking.

In February 2007 Thailand hosted a workshop, which focused on 1) the prevention and protection activities of human-trafficking, such as the effective implementation of national action plans, 2) enhancement of regional and international cooperation, as well as cooperation among different stakeholders; 3) identification of the victims of human trafficking as well as the protection and promotion of the human rights of victims. The meeting produced a set of recommendations starting among others that countries should consider establishing guidelines using a human rights approach to assist and protect the victims.

Gender Equality facilitated by South Africa

The Road Map aims to promote the universal ratification and effective implementation of the International Convention against All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Security Council Resolution 1325 as well as the achievement of the objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Road Map also calls for strengthening the protection system for women's rights at the national level, with increased attention to the elimination of violence against women, for example through the formation of an international coalition of influential women to promote international awareness.



HELSINKI PROCESS REVIEW CONFERENCE 2007

GOVERNANCE SESSION

THE ROLE OF INFORMAL DIPLOMACY IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

1. AIM OF THE SESSION

This session builds on the work of the Anti-Corruption Road Map facilitated by Finland, the Information and Communication Technology Road Map facilitated by Egypt and the 'Small Arms' Roundtable hosted by Canada. The aim of the session is to discuss the role of informal, multi-stakeholder diplomacy in global governance by exploring how informal consultations can help advance intergovernmental processes, considering the value-added of involving different stakeholders in such consultations, and the possible impact of these consultations on broader North-South confidence building.

2. BACKGROUND/POLITICAL CONTEXT

Since its launch, the key idea behind the Helsinki Process has been the notion that various stakeholders—governments, civil society, the business community, international organisations, academia and the media—can play a major role in accelerating thinking on global problem solving and on implementing global commitments. Different stakeholders have such a variety of resources at their disposal that they can make a difference in addressing complex, globally manifested problems, such as environmental degradation or poverty, through joint and well co-ordinated action. Whilst governments can agree on norms and legal frameworks, business actors often have the technical solutions and know-how to address the problem efficiently. Civil society, typically, has as its strengths the ability to contribute to civic dialogue on priorities and to mobilise awareness and political will. If combined, the common action of these different stakeholders could manifest a new era in formulating and implementing the global agenda.

The growing recognition of the value-added of multi-stakeholder cooperation has not, despite some initial expectations, led to the decline of the importance of the nation state in international decision-making processes and organisations, which very rarely if ever grant official status to non-state actors. Therefore, other ways of involving different stakeholders in global decision-making processes must be found.

In its final report, the Helsinki Group challenged the Helsinki Process with establishing a broad tent to bring together, encourage and link existing proposals and actors in order to provide an operational framework and a public space in which different stakeholders can work together for a more equitable and sustainable future. Such a framework could promote new coalitions and mechanisms to evaluate ideas, innovations and proposals for advancing the global reform agenda, to monitor progress on them and to help mobilise the necessary political will and resources for their implementation.

During the Second Phase of the Helsinki Process, the Road Maps on Anti-Corruption and Promoting the use of Information and Communication Technology in Development and the Roundtable on Small Arms have held informal consultations in preparation for official processes, with the aim of evaluating different ideas and proposals as well as reaching common understanding on the key issues at stake. These consultations have sought to provide the public space called for by the Helsinki Group by involving all key stakeholders.

3. KEY QUESTIONS:

- How can informal consultations help advance intergovernmental processes?
- What is the value-added of involving different stakeholders in informal consultations?
- How can informal consultations contribute to North-South confidence building?

4. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RELATED HELSINKI PROCESS INITIATIVES

Anti-Corruption facilitated by Finland

The Road Map aims at speeding up the process of developing an effective review mechanism for the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). This was identified by the Helsinki Conference as one of the most important means of promoting the anti-corruption agenda in the near future.

On the basis of recommendations made at the Helsinki Conference 2005, Finland, together with the Groups of Friends of the Helsinki Process and the UNCAC, as well as Portugal and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organised two informal consultation meetings between different governments to help them prepare for the first Conference of States Parties, organised in December 2006, and to initiate discussions on how to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention. These meetings were successful in identifying the key issues which needed to be discussed at the Conference of States Parties. In 2007, the Road Map has focused on supporting the efforts of working groups and a pilot project set up at the first Conference of States Parties. Finland has also been working together with Transparency International in order to gather the views and mobilise the commitment of other stakeholders to implementing the Convention.

Promotion of the Use of Information and Communication Technology in Development facilitated by Egypt

The Road Map aims to support the implementation of the recommendations of the UN World Summit on the Information Society by promoting the use of ICT for development, and by spreading knowledge in the areas of education, health and content (mainly for businesses).

ICT brings new ways and means for networking as well as changing the patterns of delivering services to the public. The digital divide is a complicated issue, especially for developing countries, and it can not be resolved without the concerted efforts of different stakeholders. In multi-stakeholder partnerships, the capacities and resources of participating organizations complement each other and create synergy that enables shared goals to be accomplished. Public-Private Partnership is recognized as one of the main principles in any successful effort and activity in ICT. Egypt organised an expert workshop of the Friends of the Helsinki Process to exchange expertise and best practices on E-health, E-education and E-content on 13-14 September, 2006, in Cairo. The meeting compiled a set of recommendations and the work will be continued in 2007. The Cairo workshop established task forces to coordinate the follow-up activities on e-health, E-education and E-content, and during 2007 meetings of these three task forces were organised.

Small Arms hosted by Canada

One of the key conclusions of the Peace and Security roundtable during the Helsinki Conference was that the early conclusion of an international legally binding treaty on arms transfers is urgently needed in the area of small arms and light weapons (SALW) control. Much hope was put on the first Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in 2006, but many felt that the outcome of that Conference was disappointing and contributed little to developing a treaty on SALW transfers.

Building on the discussions of the Helsinki Conference, the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Suggested Global Guidelines for National Controls Governing SALW, the Montebello Roundtable identified ways of moving towards the development of global guidelines for SALW transfers. The meeting prepared for a global event to be hosted by Canada in August 2007 in Geneva.



HELSINKI PROCESS REVIEW CONFERENCE 2007

ENVIRONMENT SESSION

A FRAMEWORK FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE?

1. AIM OF THE SESSION

The session builds on the discussions of the 'Energy Policy' Roundtable hosted by the Centre on Asia and Globalization of the National University of Singapore and the preparations related to the Water and Sanitation Road Map facilitated by Spain and the 'Burden Sharing and Climate Change' Roundtable, which will be hosted by TERI. The aim of the session is to consider the possibilities for a more responsible framework of global environmental governance by discussing what tools and techniques could be used to involve different stakeholders in environmental governance, how responsibilities could be divided among them and how to make use of experiences and good practices from different fields.

2. BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

The rising profile of the environment in politics—evidenced by the number of international initiatives dealing with issues such as climate change, energy politics and water and sanitation—reflects growing public concern that we may be facing a large-scale ecological crisis. Furthermore, the truly global nature of environmental threats has presented the international community and traditional structures of international governance with an unprecedented challenge.

In recent years, the state-centric international climate change regime and its constituent agreements, the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, have been complemented by parallel initiatives by non-state actors—such as cities, regional actors and corporations—seeking to reduce green house gas emissions.

Water requires a multisectoral approach to be adopted with respect to the multiple problems and conditioning factors related to this issue. Poverty reduction efforts must be based on sound environmental management since the critical ecosystem services the environment provides—such as food, fresh water, soil protection, disease regulation and flood control—contribute in important ways to the livelihoods, health and security of people living in poverty. Furthermore, expanded public and private investment in environmental assets—biodiversity, land and water—can generate strong returns for poverty reduction, contribute to pro-poor growth and accelerate progress towards all of the Millennium Development Goals.

No issue on the global agenda is more in need of new governance approaches than energy policy. Extraordinary economic growth in Asia has irrevocably altered the structure on international energy markets, and the next two decades will likely see an unprecedented need for energy resources throughout the region—at precisely the same time conventional forms of supply are becoming constricted. Political turmoil threatens to jeopardize the security of energy supply globally, creating risks of new conflicts and even war. Such instability, combined with the looming danger of climate change, makes clear that business as usual in the energy sector cannot continue without seriously endangering human well-being. Moreover, nearly two billion people lack access to basic energy services needed to improve quality of life.

3. KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE PANELLISTS:

- What tools and techniques could be used to involve different stakeholders in a coherent approach to environmental governance?
- How could responsibilities be divided among different stakeholders?
- How could experiences and good practices from different fields help in developing a framework for responsible environmental governance?

4. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RELATED HELSINKI PROCESS INITIATIVES

Burden Sharing and Climate Change hosted by The Energy and Resources Institute

The broad acceptance of the risks posed by climate change has led to well established global dialogue and consensus building exercises on the measures which need to be taken to cope with the risks, including an analysis of supply and demand options, alternate technologies and price regimes etc. However, securing an agreement on who should do what requires a further dialogue on burden-sharing. The global discourse on this is not as well established, and intergovernmental negotiations and other discussions on measures lack the base of a prior set of agreed principles on rights and obligations.

The Roundtable on Burden Sharing and Climate Change is designed to facilitate open discussion among economists, ecologists, climate specialists, lawyers, political theorists and others in order to explore how rights and obligations could be specified and where they should rest, including discussions of mechanisms for burden-sharing to the extent that such a discussion is necessary to give meaning to the discussion of principles. The meeting will address the issue of burden sharing from an 1) economic 2) ecological 3) political and 4) legal perspective, with ethical considerations clearly underlying all of these perspectives. It will also take into consideration other liability regimes within international environmental law as well as arguments that have been used to justify the costs of protecting public goods.

Energy Policy hosted by the Centre on Asia and Globalization of the National University of Singapore

The multiple and on-going problems in energy—the imbalance between supply and demand, vulnerability of energy infrastructure, environmental degradation associated with energy production and use, lack of access to energy services for vast numbers of people—reflect policy and governance failures at all levels. The world lacks an effective, or even marginal, structure for global decision making on energy policy. No overarching international organization effectively brings together the major energy players. Global energy markets are extremely volatile, distorted by subsidies, poorly regulated, and fractured by price signals and block rate pricing schemes. At the national and sub-national levels, energy policy is usually a confused jumble of regulations imposed by multiple regulators, who are often working at cross purposes and confronting jurisdictional conflicts.

The Roundtable on Energy Governance brought together a variety of leading analysts looking at different approaches to the governance of energy, and served as a launching pad for a major international project that will take a radically different approach from that followed by most energy policy research programs. Rather than looking at energy in terms of sources and supply, the project will start with a focus on governance processes: who are the governors when it comes to energy policy; what are the emerging tools and techniques that might be successfully applied in the energy field; what can be learned from the literature on international organizations and from the experience on the governance of climate change?

Water and Sanitation facilitated by Spain

The role of water and sanitation in preventing diseases such as Malaria in developing countries was highlighted by the Human Security Track, and the Helsinki Conference concluded that a lack of clean water both creates health risks and hinders development.

The goals of the Road Map on water and sanitation are to compile a document of good practices concerning water and sanitation systems, to seek funding and co-funding mechanisms for follow-up activities for meeting goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, to ensure the sustained use of water resources and the implementation of sanitation programmes and, finally, to promote the optimal use of water at all levels of society, institutions and business, to favour the creation of a culture for water, to respect, protect and efficiently manage water resources. The Road Map draws upon the work of the UNDP-Spain MDG Achievement Fund Thematic Window for Environment and Climate Change and Second Preparatory Conference for the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, which have identified a number of best practices that could be further replicated.

The Road Map aims at presenting the outcomes of its work at the Expo-Zaragoza 2008, which will serve as an international platform for the dissemination of information and perspectives regarding the relationship between man and water and sustainable development, and will be a reference point for urgent co-operative action in regions that need drinking water and in the eradication of diseases related to unsafe drinking water.