

**IPA TASK FORCES  
ON STRENGTHENING MULTILATERAL SECURITY CAPACITY  
Concept Paper**

In 2008, the International Peace Academy will launch a new initiative, the **Task Forces on Strengthening Multilateral Security Capacity**. These will assist IPA in developing recommendations for redoubling and reorienting the capacity of the UN and its partners to deal with emerging, multifaceted, and global security challenges.

The International Peace Academy's **Task Forces on Strengthening Multilateral Security Capacity** will be established within its wide-ranging research program on *Coping with Crisis, Conflict and Change: The United Nations and Evolving Capacities for Managing Global Crises*. Over the past two years, the program has mapped global challenges through its Working Paper Series (available at [www.ipacademy.org/our-work/coping-with-crisis/](http://www.ipacademy.org/our-work/coping-with-crisis/)). Building on the knowledge that work has generated, and others' insights, we are now moving to develop action-oriented recommendations for institutional and policy innovation aimed at strengthening the UN's and its partners' capacity to address the many security challenges with which the world is confronted. The **Task Forces** will address not only the policy steps that are needed, but also the political and institutional strategies required to implement them. The latter too often have been the missing links in past efforts to strengthen the UN system.

Given the inextricable links among security, developmental, and environmental challenges, the initiative will open with a symposium on **Chronic Under-development, Resource Scarcity, and Climate Change**, followed by Task Forces on the two core dimensions of the security concerns facing the UN and its partners:

1. **Transnational Security Challenges** and
2. **Inter and Intra-state Armed Conflict**.

The two Task Forces, in turn, will be divided into nine roundtables focusing on specific policy challenges (see below). The Task Force and roundtable meetings will draw together eminent experts from governments and relevant policy research institutions to develop practical and realistic strategies for strengthening UN capacity. At the conclusion of each Task Force, IPA will produce a report reflecting the Task Force's deliberations and posing a number of policy and institutional recommendations. The latter will be associated with IPA, not necessarily with the individual participants of the Task Forces and roundtables. By offering both a menu of practical ideas and strategies for accomplishing them, IPA will seek to spur existing UN reform efforts and to generate greater political receptiveness to new approaches.

## Objectives

The central goal of these Task Forces will be to identify the policies and institutional modifications needed at the multilateral level to meet emerging security challenges, and the political and institutional strategies needed to bring these policies and architectures into being.

The **Opening Symposium “Development, Resources, and Environment: Defining Challenges for the Security Agenda”** will precede the Task Forces. This two-day meeting will gather government and senior policy research experts to explore ways in which cardinal, even existential, threats to humanity – chronic under-development, energy and resource scarcity, environmental degradation and climate change – are shaping both security challenges and our capacity to address them effectively. By examining these critical related issues, the symposium will provide a larger geo-political and economic context for the work of the subsequent Task Forces. Following this session, IPA will produce a meeting report that will be available to the members of the Task Forces, as well as to wider UN circles.

The two **Task Forces** will guide IPA in generating practical, action-oriented policy and institutional recommendations in response to four key questions:

1. **What are the current policy and institutional shortcomings in multilateral security capacity on these issues?**
2. **Why have previous attempts to address these shortcomings failed?**
3. **What policies and institutional renovations, including legal frameworks and financial arrangements, are needed?**

And, crucially –

4. **What strategy is needed to achieve these renovations?**

Each Task Force will apply the lessons of past reform efforts to a series of specific thematic areas. The resulting conclusions and recommendations will seek to define clear policy goals, to build on policy proposals already articulated by previous UN reform studies, and to identify concrete steps whose implementation is feasible within the United Nations system as a whole. Through this process, IPA will develop an expanded toolkit of practical suggestions for effective institutional and policy innovation. These proposals, in turn, will define IPA’s core agenda for years to come. While policy discussions on related topics may be taking place in other fora, IPA brings to this initiative a long and constructive history of collaboration with the United Nations and its Membership, as well as a more strategic perspective than in-house and inter-governmental processes can offer.

Although the institutional focus will be the UN, the project will help the world body’s stakeholders strategize, prioritize, and leverage the UN’s comparative advantages, including its ability to forge productive and sustainable partnerships with other groups and organizations. Some of the topics under scrutiny may require extensive – or even primary – contributions from other international actors, such as regional organizations, national governments, civil society, and/or the private sector.

## **Methodology**

The **Task Forces on Strengthening Multilateral Security Capacity** represent – with their focus on policy development – the critical second step in the four-year *Coping with Crisis* Program. A third step, commencing in 2009, will concentrate on building political support for the implementation of the recommendations generated by the Task Forces.

The Opening Symposium will provide a foundational context for the work of the Task Forces. Between this session in early February and the convening of the first Task Force in April, a pause of two months will allow background papers from eminent experts to be disseminated and analyzed by the Task Force members and chairs. The Task Forces, convened sequentially, will address two thematic clusters of issues, each of which will be broken down into smaller expert Roundtables, as follows:

<b>Task Force One</b> <b>Transnational Security Challenges</b>	<b>Task Force Two</b> <b>Inter- and Intra-state Armed Conflict</b>
1) Transnational Organized Crime	6) Peace Operations
2) Weapons of Mass Destruction	7) Mediation and Peace Processes
3) Countering Global Terrorism	8) Peacebuilding
4) Small Arms and Light Weapons	9) Conflict Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect
5) Biosecurity	

Each Task Force will consist of Members drawn from UN Member States, academia and policy research institutions. The composition of each group will ensure a broad range of perspectives regarding multilateral capacity on the issues in question. Through this intensive work process, the Task Forces will, in essence, become core groups of stakeholders with an interest in developing practical strategies for addressing the UN's institutional and policy shortcomings in these critical areas.

Task Force Members will meet in Opening and Closing Plenary Sessions, as indicated in the attached table. Smaller groups will gather between the Plenary Sessions in Roundtables (as above), along with invited guest experts, for more in-depth, topic-specific discussions. Following each Roundtable, IPA will produce a Meeting Note reflecting the group's discussions. Likewise, IPA will draw on the Task Force deliberations to produce two Reports, detailing practical and achievable steps for strengthening UN capacity in the area in question. As noted above, the content of these reports will be the responsibility of IPA, rather than being attributed to the Task Force participants. Additional follow-up activities – tailored to the strategies identified in the Task Force Reports – should also be anticipated. For example, IPA is anticipating a series of off-the-record meetings with UN Secretariat and other UN bodies before finalizing the reports.

## Timeline

### **Opening Symposium “Development, Resources, and Environment: Defining Challenges for the Security Agenda”**

7-8 February 2008 [Greentree Estate, Long Island]

### **Task Force One: Transnational Security Challenges**

**Opening Plenary Meeting:** 2-4 April 2008 [Greentree Estate, Long Island]

- 1) Roundtable on **Transnational Organized Crime:** 10-11 April 2008 [Millennium UN Plaza Hotel, New York]
- 2) Roundtable on **Weapons of Mass Destruction:** 24-25 April 2008 [IPA, New York]
- 3) Roundtable on **Countering Global Terrorism:** 1-2 May 2008 [IPA, New York]
- 4) Roundtable on **Small Arms and Light Weapons:** 15-16 May 2008 [Millennium UN Plaza Hotel, New York]
- 5) Roundtable on **Biosecurity:** 21-22 May 2008 [IPA, New York]

**Closing Plenary Meeting:** 28-30 May 2008 [Greentree Estate, Long Island]

### **Task Force Two: Inter and Intra-state Armed Conflict**

**Opening Plenary Meeting** – 11-13 June 2008 [Greentree Estate, Long Island]

- 6) Roundtable on **Peace Operations:** 16-17 June 2008 [IPA, New York]
- 7) Roundtable on **Mediation and Peace Processes:** 26-27 June 2008 [IPA, New York]
- 8) Roundtable on **Peacebuilding:** 2-3 July 2008 [IPA, New York]
- 9) Roundtable on **Conflict Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect:** 8-9 July 2008 [IPA, New York]

**Closing Plenary Meeting:** 15-17 October 2008 (TBC) [Greentree Estate, Long Island]

## List of Invitees

<b>OPENING SYMPOSIUM “Development, Resources, and Environment: Defining Challenges for the Security Agenda”</b>	<b>TASK FORCE ONE Transnational Security Challenges</b>	<b>TASK FORCE TWO Inter and Intra-state Armed Conflict</b>
<p><i>Co-chairs</i> H.E. Mr. Heraldo Muñoz, Chile H.E. Mr. Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo, South Africa H.E. Mr. Peter Maurer, Switzerland</p> <p><i>Conveners</i> H.E. Mr. Terje Rød-Larsen, IPA Dr. Edward Luck, IPA</p> <p><i>Member States</i> Angola Antigua and Barbuda Australia Bangladesh Brazil Canada Cuba Denmark European Commission Indonesia Israel Jordan Liechtenstein Malaysia Mozambique Nigeria Pakistan Portugal Qatar Senegal Singapore Sweden United Arab Emirates United Kingdom Yemen</p> <p><i>Around 15 additional thematic experts will be invited.</i></p>	<p><i>Co-chairs</i> H.E. Mr. Christian Wenaweser, Liechtenstein H.E. Mr. Vanu Gopala Menon, Singapore</p> <p><i>Conveners</i> H.E. Mr. Terje Rød-Larsen, IPA Dr. Edward Luck, IPA</p> <p><i>Member States</i> Argentina Canada Colombia Chile Egypt Germany Ghana Greece Indonesia Ireland Luxembourg Mexico New Zealand Romania Russia Saudi Arabia Slovenia South Africa Spain Switzerland United States</p> <p><i>Around 15 additional thematic experts will be invited.</i></p>	<p><i>Co-chairs</i> H.E. Mr. John McNee, Canada H.E. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Indonesia</p> <p><i>Conveners</i> H.E. Mr. Terje Rød-Larsen, IPA Dr. Edward Luck, IPA</p> <p><i>Member States</i> Austria Belgium Chile China Democratic Republic of Congo El Salvador Finland France India Japan Liechtenstein Netherlands Norway Singapore Slovakia South Africa Switzerland Tanzania Tunisia</p> <p><i>Around 15 additional thematic experts will be invited.</i></p>