Box 5: Security-related definitions

"Security" is increasingly viewed as an all-encompassing condition in which people and communities live in freedom, peace and safety; participate fully in the process of governance; enjoy the protection of fundamental rights; have access to resources and the basic necessities of life; and inhabit an environment which is not detrimental to their health and well-being. Underpinning this broader understanding is a recognition that the security of people and the security of states are mutually reinforcing. It follows that a wide range of state institutions and other entities may be responsible for ensuring some aspect of security. This understanding of security is consistent with the broad notion of human security promoted by the United Nations Development Programme and widely used by development actors.

The "Security system" includes security forces and the relevant civilian bodies and processes needed to manage them and encompasses: state institutions which have a formal mandate to ensure the safety of the state and its citizens against acts of violence and coercion (e.g. the armed forces, the police and paramilitary forces, the intelligence services and similar bodies; judicial and penal institutions; and the elected and duly appointed civil authorities responsible for control and oversight (e.g. Parliament, the Executive, the Defence Ministry, etc.).

"Security sector reform" is the transformation of the "security system" which includes all the actors, their roles, responsibilities and actions, so that it is managed and operated in a manner that is more consistent with democratic norms and sound principles of good governance, and thus contributes to a well-functioning security framework.

Source: "Security Issues and Development Co-operation: A Conceptual Framework for Enhancing Policy Coherence", *The DAC Journal, Vol. 2, No. 3.*

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Security is an essential component of good governance and initiatives to ensure peace and sustainable development. Recognition is growing that what happens in this area has a significant impact on a country's overall prospects for development as well as the effectiveness of international assistance provided in other areas. Many in the international community and conflict-prone countries increasingly recognise that direct measures to help improve governance and accountability in their security sectors are a high priority for conflict prevention and development. These measures are also a focus for international co-operation between some donors and other parts of their governments, with a recognition that this work needs to be undertaken in a spirit of partnership and sustained joint effort. Actors involved from both partner and donor countries range from the military and the police, and the judicial and penal systems to government, ministries of foreign affairs, trade and commerce, as well as from the media to civil society organisations and the business community.

Assessing security needs

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National security reviews, including the development of effective threat assessments, can help a country elaborate an overarching policy on national security in the context of national development goals. Reviews provide a basis for managing security resources more effectively. Efforts to improve security expenditure management should be set in the broader context of strengthening the institutional framework in which public spending and security decision-making occurs, ensuring due transparency and attention to corruption. The widening, and worrying, role of private security activities is an important element. In many countries they undermine the "public goods" character of providing security of persons and property — the most basic function of government. Both donors and partner countries need to invest in deepening and widening their understanding of security challenges and possible responses. Governmental, parliamentary, civil society and independent research capacities should be reinforced, and direct dialogue with security professionals should be regularised. These goals can be further strengthened when