Civil Society-Military Roadmap on Human Security: 8 Insights into Transition

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Civil Society-Military Dialogue Process

This Roadmap results from a series of dialogues between civil society organizations and international military personnel to map the issues, tensions and opportunities for clarification and commitment by all stakeholders for further discussion.

Civil Society-Military Roadmap on Human Security

This Roadmap is a product of a year-long series of large and small dialogues between civil society organizations and military personnel. The Roadmap aims to map the issues, tensions and opportunities between civil society and military actors for clarification and commitment by all stakeholders for further discussion. THIS IS A DRAFT DOCUMENT - please do not cite or use until a final version is released on www.3Dsecurity.org website. ALL COMMENTS ARE WELCOME. Please send comments to schirchl@emu.edu

Civil Society-Military Relations

There are many different types of civil-military relationships. Civilian government, civilian contractors, and civil society organizations are very different kinds of "civilians." The intense challenges of coordinating government civilians with military actors and the increasing military use of civilian contractors confuses and overshadows the distinct nature of civil society-military relationships sharing space in conflict-affected regions.

Defining Civil Society

1. Civil society organizations (CSOs) are diverse; including international and local non-profit, non-governmental groups such as religious organizations, universities, media, charities, community-based organizations (CBOs), professional and trade associations.
2. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are a type of CSO. There are at least four types of NGOs: humanitarian, development, human rights and peacebuilding.
3. CSO capacities include fostering economic development, health, agriculture, human rights, governance, conflict resolution, and other efforts such as police training. Local civil society's strengths lie in their cultural, linguistic, political and social knowledge of and long-term commitment to the local context.

8 Insights into “Transition”

1.Transition should not focus only on the State

- The US strategy in Iraq and Afghanistan focuses on building state structures for effective governance

- Governance structures are necessary but not sufficient for stability

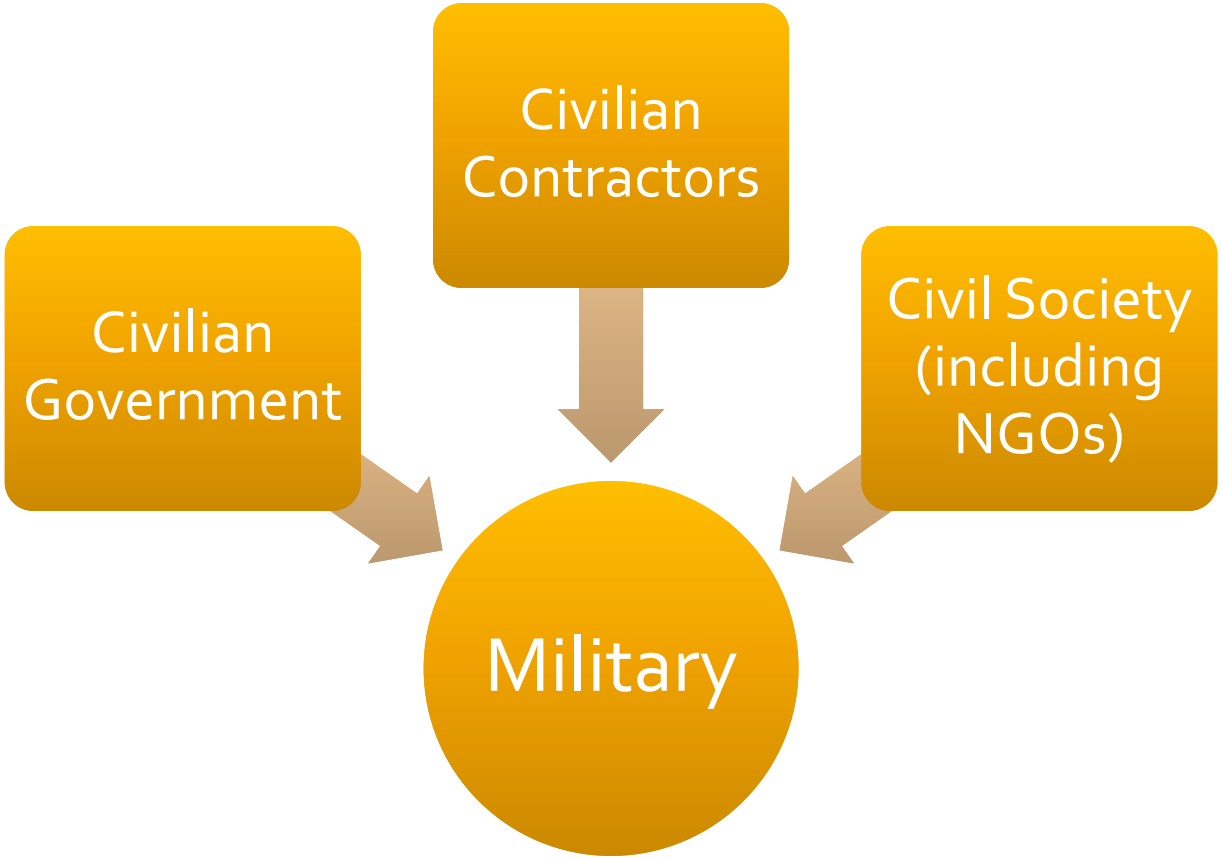
2. Civil society is relevant to transition

- "Building civil society" is on most people's list of transition tasks, but the concept is not widely understood.
- Civil society is not perfect. It is full of flaws and challenges.
- Just like military and government personnel and units, there are parts of civil society that are corrupt and undermine security

Local Iraqi NGOs

Local Afghan NGOs

Types of Civil-Military



Types of "Civilians"

- Civilian Government (presumed unity of mission with military)
- Civilian Contractors (implement government mission for profit)
- Civil Society (independent mission, nongovernmental, not for profit)

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

- International and local
- Non-profit, non-governmental groups
- Examples include religious organizations, universities, media, charities, community-based organizations (CBOs), professional and trade associations, traditional structures
- Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are a type of CSO. There are at least four types of NGOs: humanitarian, development, human rights and peacebuilding.

Civil Society's Strengths

- Long-term Commitment
- Local Experience in local efforts to address conflicts.
- Understanding cultural, religious, & political context
- Access to areas & people where government cannot reach
- Trust & legitimacy with local populations
- Flexible to adapt to changes in local context

Civil Society's Challenges

- Diversity of missions, capacities and strength of ties to local constituencies
- Capacity of staff, funding, and skills are sometimes lacking
- Tensions and mistrust between government and CSOs
- Security situation may stop their work
- Service delivery may substitute or weaken state legitimacy
- Evaluation of CSO programming sometimes absent

Humanitarian Principles

1. Humanitarian imperative: to save lives, alleviate suffering, and uphold dignity.

2. Independence: to make decisions, program plans and strategies free from other's political goals or ideologies.

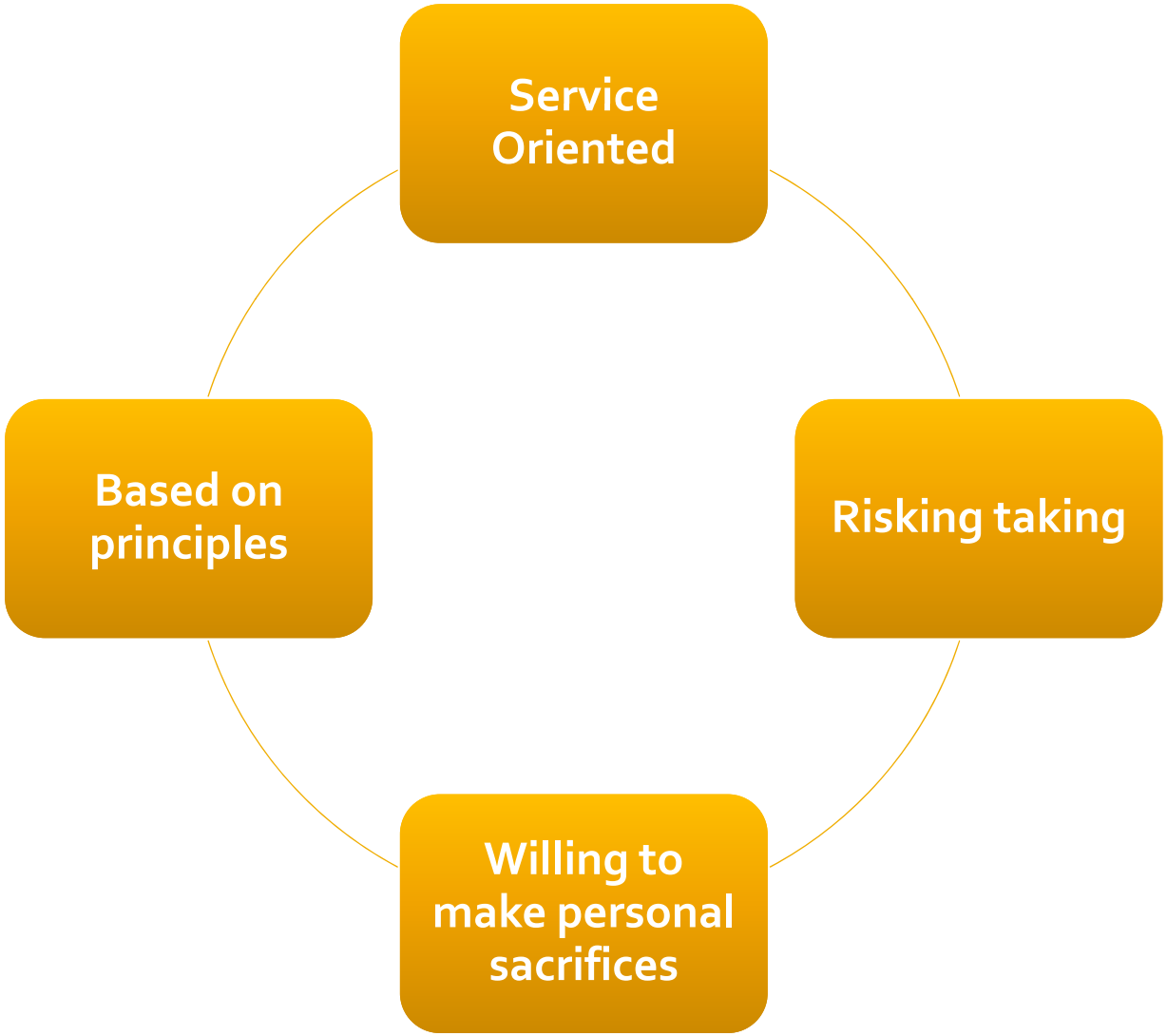
3. Impartiality: to provide resources regardless of the identity of those suffering.

4. Neutrality: to not take sides in political or military struggles.

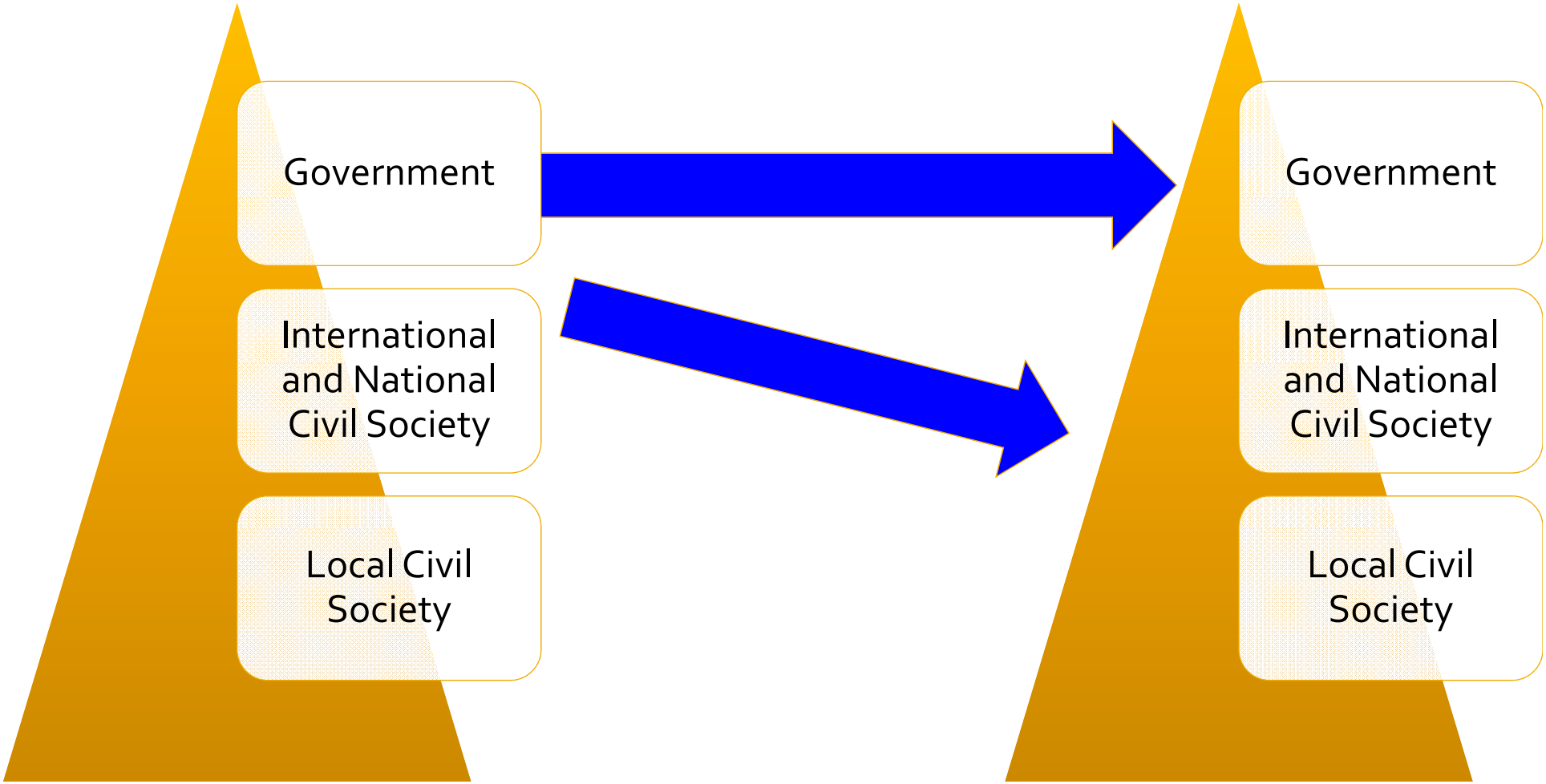
5. Do no harm: to work without harming others

6. Accountability: to consult and be accountable to local people.

Civil Society & Military Shared Values

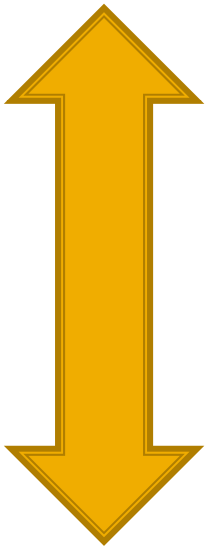


3. Transition requires a "Whole of Society" Approach



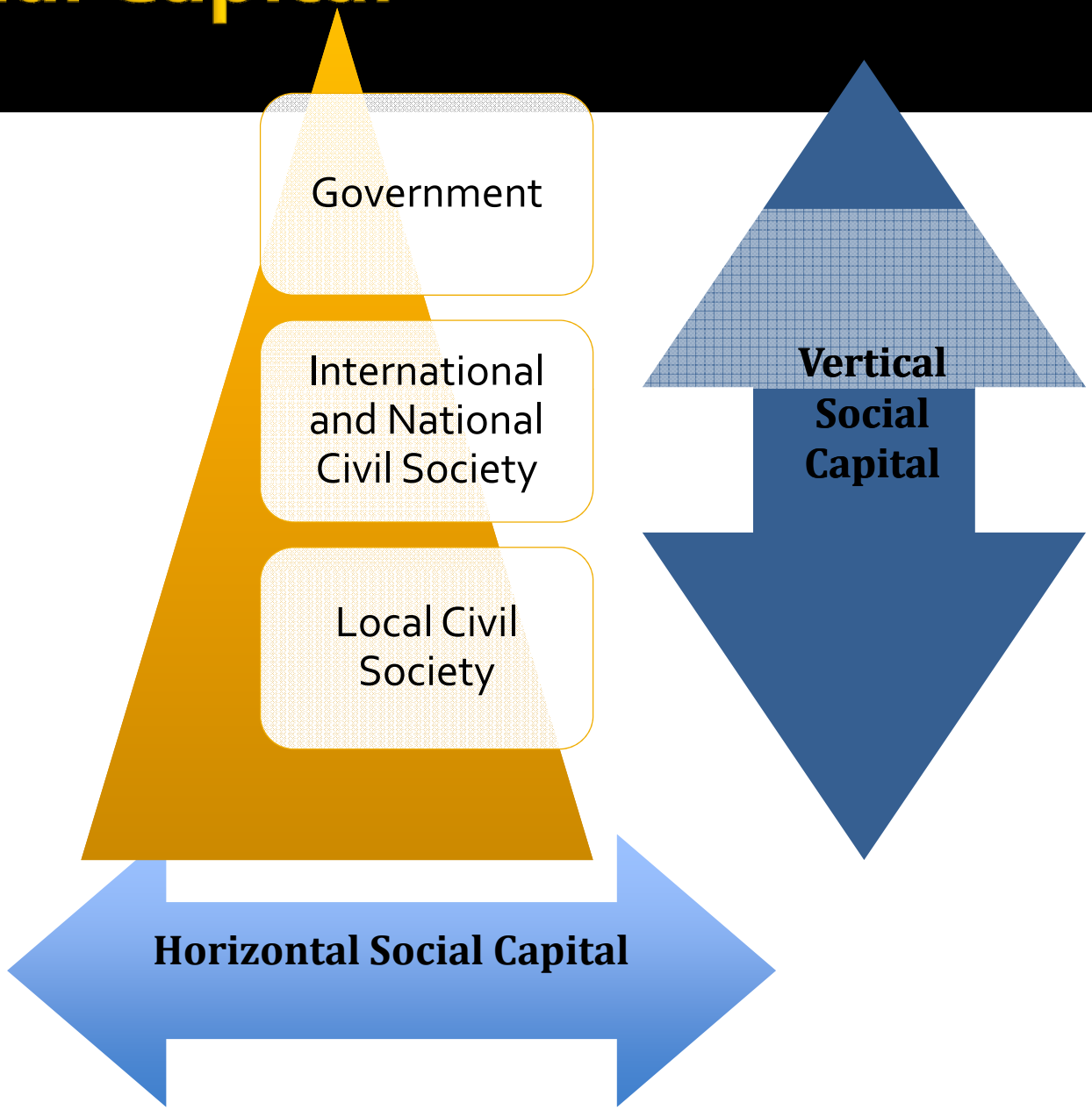
Good Governance & Security

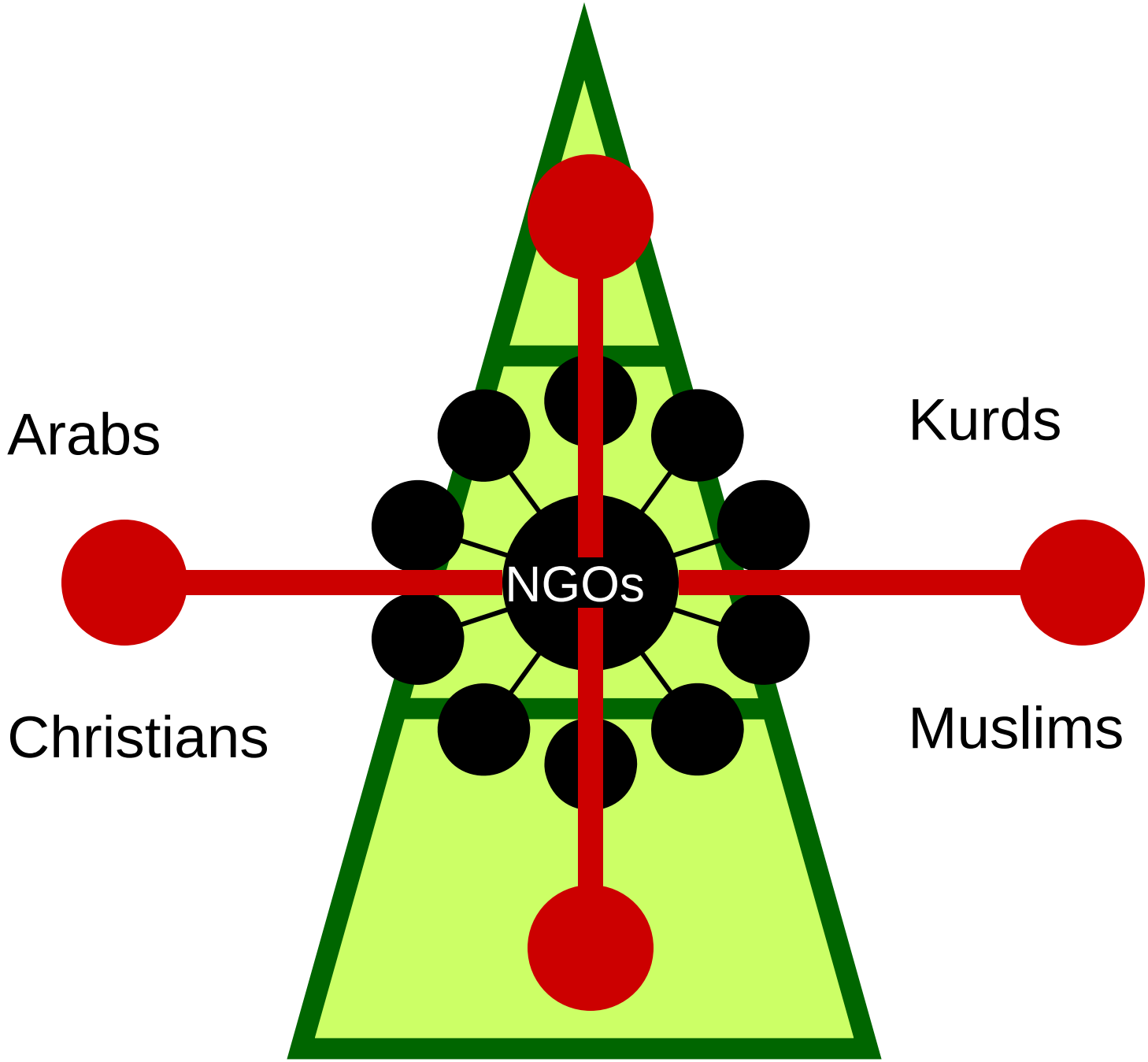
Citizen-Oriented State



Active Civil Society

Social Capital




Arabs
Kurds
NGOs
Christians
Muslims

4. Plant the Seeds of Transition from the Beginning

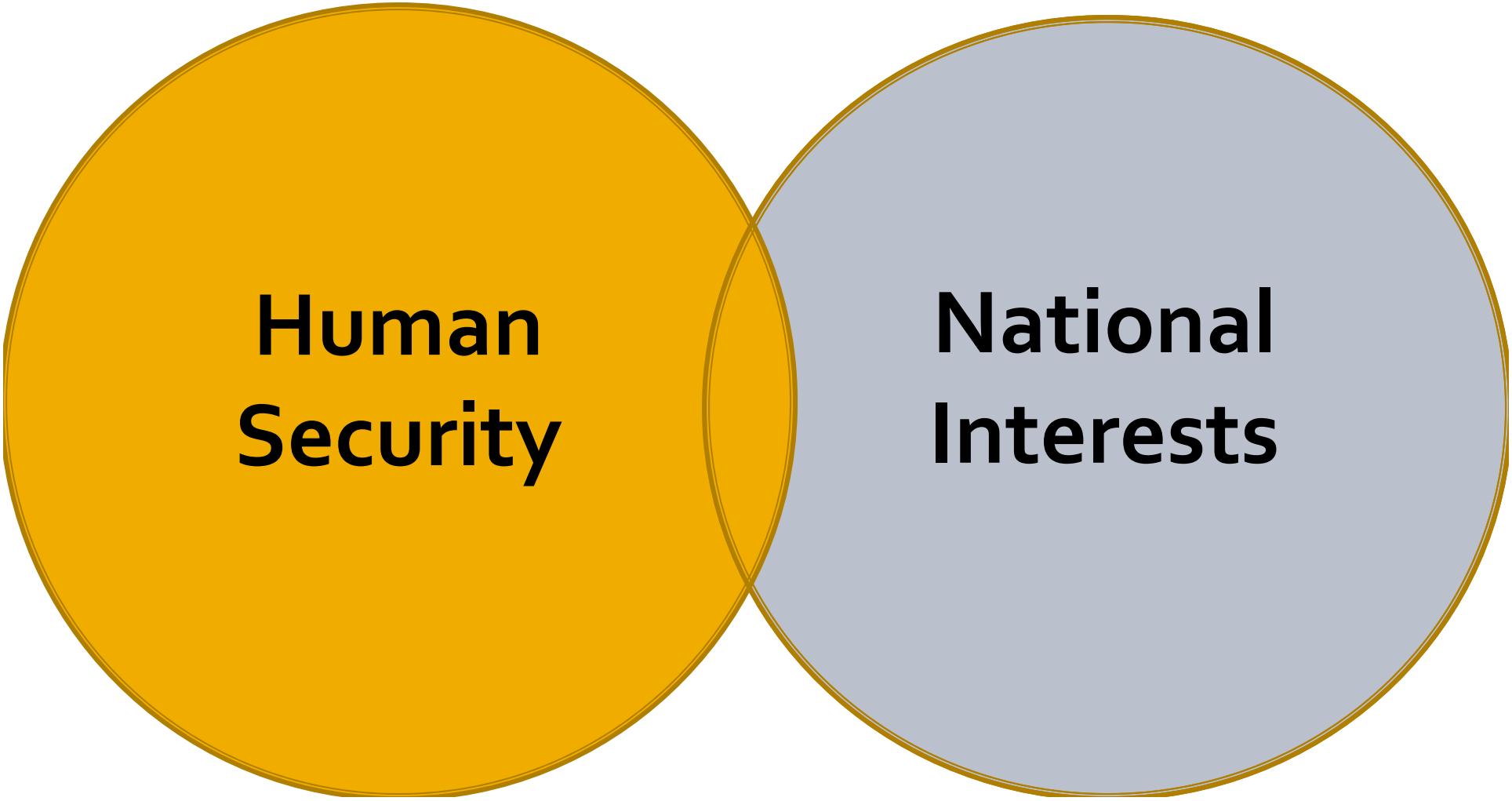
Military Entry Strategy

Military Exit Strategy

5. Transition Requires Translating Terminology – and recognizing the differences

- Defining different missions: human security and national security
- Translating CSO activities into the language of counterinsurgency; yet most CSOs oppose the COIN strategy
- Translating military activities into the language of peacebuilding

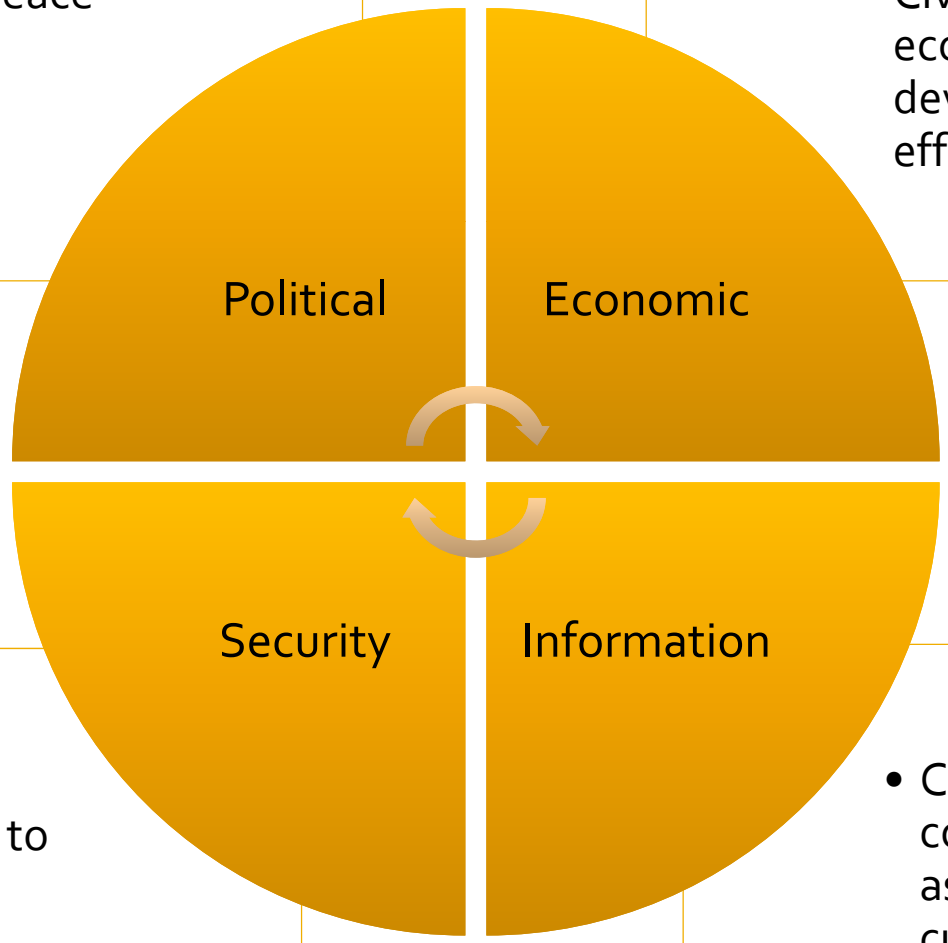
6. CSOs favor "human security" – security as defined by local populations



Civil Society Relevance to COIN

- Civil society peace process & reconciliation efforts

- Civil society economic development efforts



- Civil society contributions to SSR and DDR

- Civil society conflict assessment and cultural intelligence

Military Support to Peacebuilding

Military sensitivity to inter-group relationships

Military logistical support to reconciliation processes and transitional justice

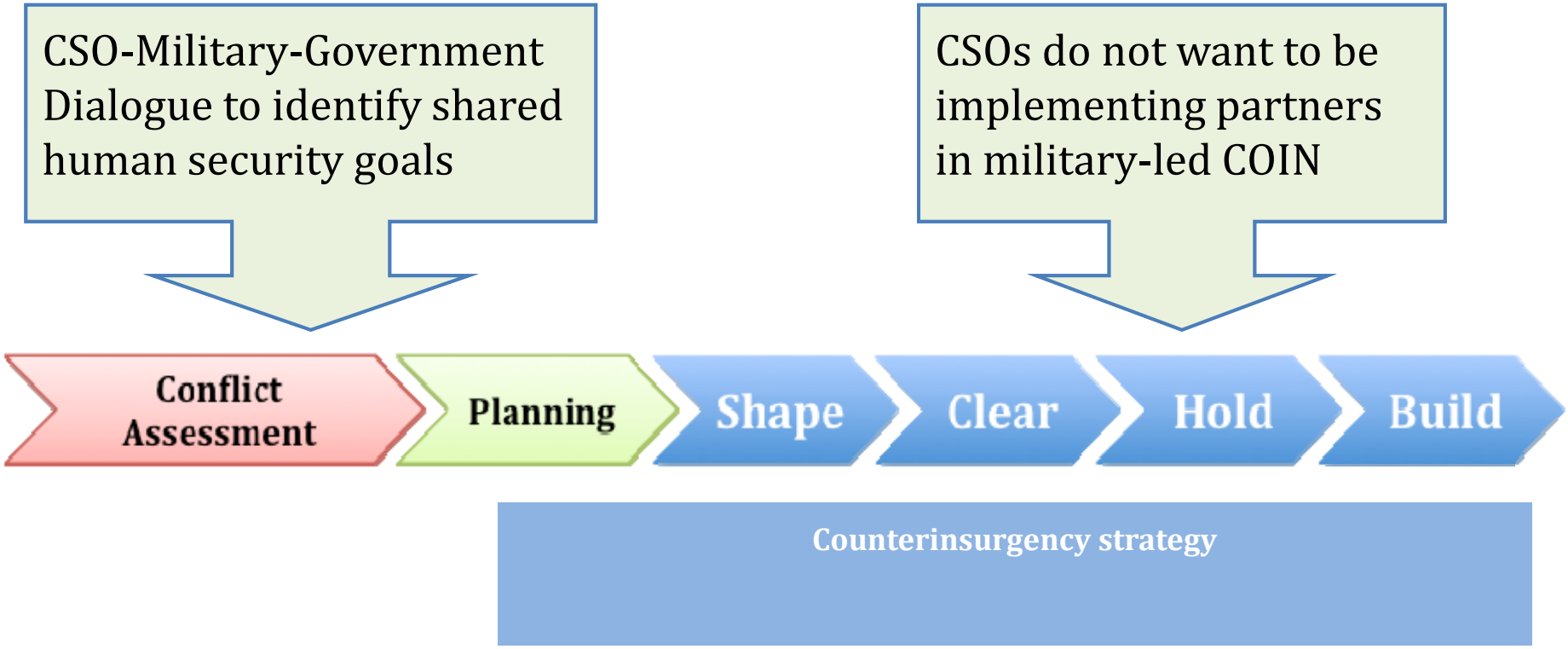
Military programs to broader peacebuilding programs

Military intervention to prevent or interrupt inter-group fighting

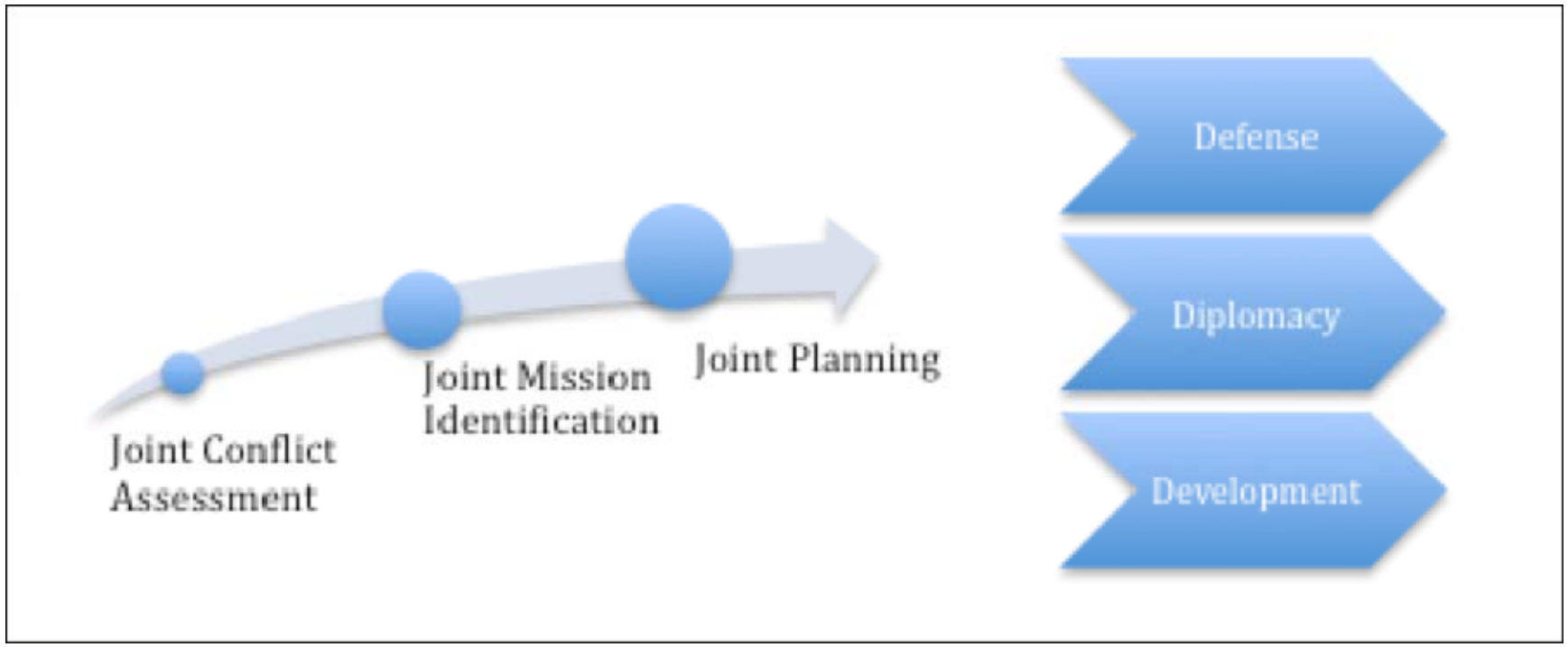
7. Key Tensions Inhibit Transition

- Enemy Centric vs. Population Centric
- All Necessary Means vs. Do No Harm
- Legal vs Illegal
- Short-term vs Long-term Time Horizon
- Budget Rich vs Poor
- Control vs Empowerment

7. Transition Requires "Communication" not "Coordination"



Communication, not integration, is necessary for a 3D or comprehensive approach.



8. Transition Requires Problem-Solving Dialogue

- What is the Relationship between "Security" and "Development"?
- What are appropriate communication and consultation mechanisms between military and CSOs?
- Could there be a shared set of standards for development efforts of military and CSO to prevent negative impacts?
- What are appropriate channels or mechanisms for funding CSOs?

Civil Society has led most of the successful transitions from repressive governments to democracy over the last 100 years.

- South Africa
- Chile
- El Salvador
- Poland
- Czechoslovakia

- In each case, it is important to ask: Stability for what purpose and for whose benefit? CSOs in some of these contexts defined stability differently.