

# Informing and strengthening peace processes

The importance of learning from peace processes to inform peacemaking practice and policy was reinforced by the work of the Policy, Communications and Comparative Learning team.

All activities supported and/or drew directly on the experience of those involved in peacemaking and demonstrated the need for sensitive, nuanced and above all participatory approaches to conflict transformation.



## Facilitating comparative learning from peace processes

CR's comparative learning project aims to increase capacities for practical peacemaking through direct interactive learning about peace processes.

This year, we held workshops in Colombia and the Philippines, organized by CR's project partners, Institute for the Study of Development and Peace (INDEPAZ), Centre for Integrative and Development Studies of the University of the Philippines and Balay Mindanaw Foundation.

The Colombian event focused on the roles of international actors in peace processes, while the Philippines workshop looked at local third party roles. A second workshop in the Philippines explored the importance of creating opportunities for parties to seek alternative ways of framing disputed issues.

CR's Accord publications were a central resource at the workshops, where participants included people directly involved in dialogue and negotiation processes in the two countries, academics, human rights advocates, development actors, and CR resource persons.

Insights emerging from workshops were documented in the 'Reflections' papers, which draw out new thinking on cross-cutting issues and include practical suggestions for practitioners and policymakers.

A review of the project will conclude in spring 2007 and CR and partners will then select and develop options for the future of this project.

## A dialogue on policy

UK Minister of State Kim Howells and partners from the peacebuilding field spoke alongside CR's Executive Director, Andy Carl, at an event to celebrate CR's tenth anniversary.

The event provided an opportunity to highlight the need for the UK Government to increase its support for policies of inclusion and engagement in peacebuilding processes.

"...this is a two-way relationship, a partnership. The FCO has provided funding to support CR's work but we have also benefited through a dialogue on policy that has emerged from CR's first hand and practical experience of peacebuilding."

Kim Howells, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Above: Speakers Ed Garcia and Kim Howells at CR's tenth anniversary event

## Policy

CR laid the groundwork to move from responding to policy issues as they arise, to a more strategic approach to influencing policy.

A mapping exercise reaffirmed that our policy work should continue to be rooted in the learning emerging from practice and from the study of peace processes, and identified key themes for advocacy work.

During the year, CR continued to contribute to policy formulation processes on conflict. We made a submission to the International Development Committee's enquiry on conflict and development, and contributed to consultations



## Peace by piece

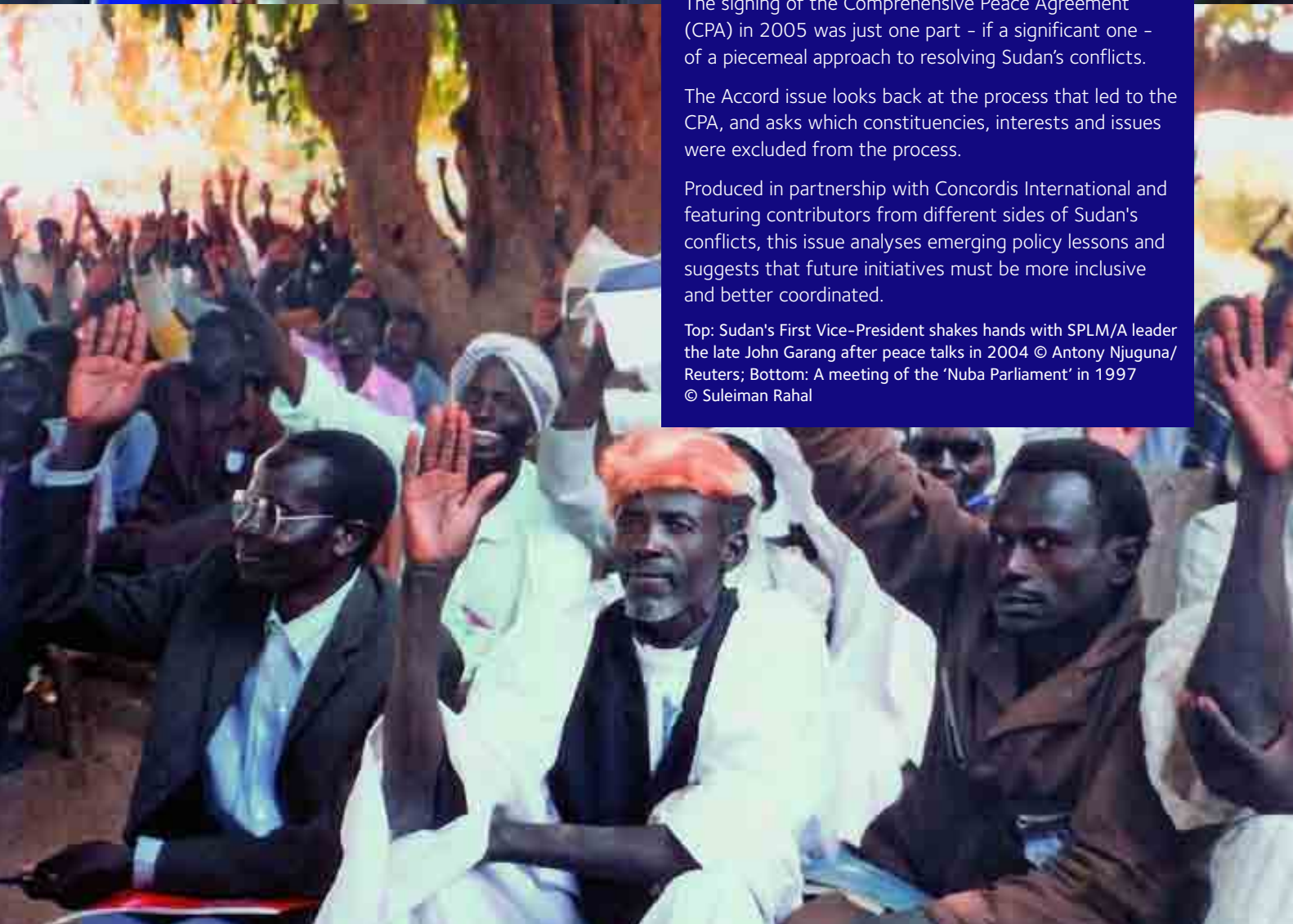
*Peace by piece: addressing Sudan's conflicts* (Accord issue 18) asked what remains to be done to secure a truly comprehensive end to Sudan's interlocking conflicts.

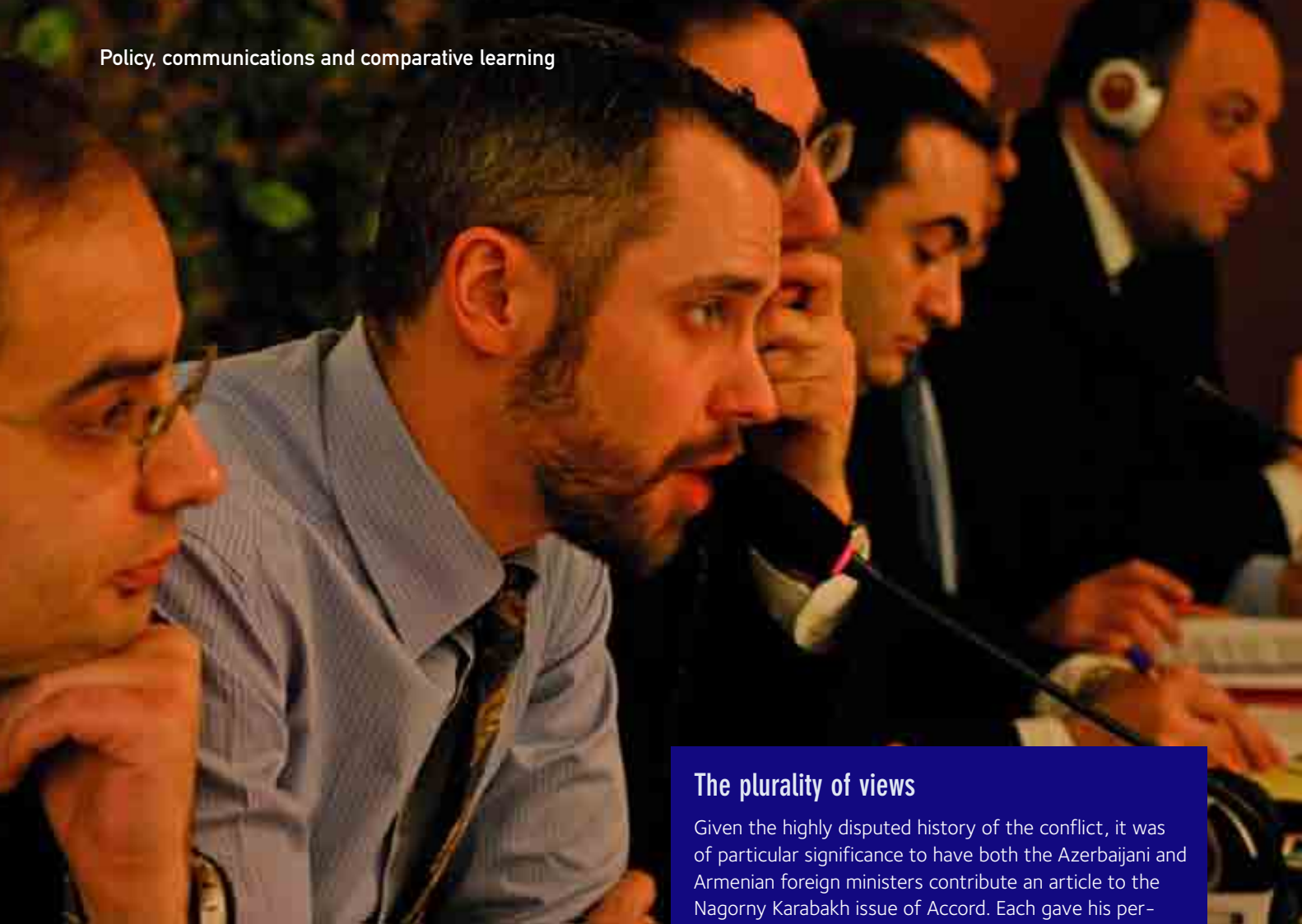
The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 was just one part – if a significant one – of a piecemeal approach to resolving Sudan's conflicts.

The Accord issue looks back at the process that led to the CPA, and asks which constituencies, interests and issues were excluded from the process.

Produced in partnership with Concordis International and featuring contributors from different sides of Sudan's conflicts, this issue analyses emerging policy lessons and suggests that future initiatives must be more inclusive and better coordinated.

Top: Sudan's First Vice-President shakes hands with SPLM/A leader the late John Garang after peace talks in 2004 © Antony Njuguna/Reuters; Bottom: A meeting of the 'Nuba Parliament' in 1997 © Suleiman Rahal





on the Department for International Development (DFID) conflict policy, as well as participating in a joint response to the DFID White Paper with a coalition of UK development NGOs. In each case, some of CR's suggestions were taken up.

Expertise drawn from Accord work enabled us to make a unique contribution on specific topics such as the ongoing discourse on engaging armed groups.

## Accord

CR's acclaimed Accord publications and projects make sure that the hard-won lessons of peacemaking are analysed, documented and shared.

Translated into Russian, Azeri and Armenian, *The limits of leadership: elites and societies in the Nagorny Karabakh peace process* (Accord issue 17) was launched in London, Yerevan, Baku and Stepanakert and published on the web.

*Peace by piece: addressing Sudan's conflicts* (Accord issue 18) was developed in partnership with Concordis International. Launch events and the completion of the Arabic version will follow in 2007.

In conflict situations, external actors try to influence the conflict through parties by applying incentives and sanctions – but often without a wider peacebuilding strategy or an understanding of how such measures will be received locally. CR convened a workshop on the use of incentives, sanctions and conditionality in peace processes in September.

## The plurality of views

Given the highly disputed history of the conflict, it was of particular significance to have both the Azerbaijani and Armenian foreign ministers contribute an article to the Nagorny Karabakh issue of Accord. Each gave his perspective on the principles, compromises and international roles that could contribute to a lasting settlement.

“The defining feature of this review in my opinion is the plurality of views that it presents on the Nagorny Karabakh conflict and the constructive nature of the proposals to help resolve this issue. This combination will, I hope, lead to a fruitful and reasoned debate among Armenians and Azerbaijanis.”

Micheline Calmy-Rey, Swiss Foreign Minister

Above: Launch of Accord issue 17 in Armenia

## Looking ahead

In 2007 CR will produce an Accord thematic issue on incentives, sanctions and conditionality and a conflict-specific issue on Aceh, Indonesia. Policy work will focus on advocating for the UK government to increase and improve support for peace processes. The comparative learning project will be reviewed in spring 2007 and is expected to expand.

“Often we start with the notion that our conflict is unique, *sui generis*, and difficult to compare with others. This reinforces the notion that we have little to learn from other examples...

I believe there are many useful lessons which we can draw from other conflicts... and efforts (successful and unsuccessful) at resolving them.”  
Carlo Nasi, University of the Andes, Bogotá