

## Preface

**A**s we write in early 2007, it seems that there is more need than ever for governments, international organizations and NGOs to *deliver* human security. Few international crises are being resolved and more evolve constantly, from civil wars to natural disasters and pandemic diseases. Yet to be able to deliver human security, a working understanding of its mandate and limits is imperative; and unfortunately, there is still a good deal of confusion about the lines of separation and overlap between humanitarian aid, development, security, conflict resolution, and human security. At the Fletcher School, we hear repeatedly that the basis of organizational success is a clearly defined mission and measurable indicators of performance. Further, we learn that good institutions are the key to good governance. So what of the human security mission and its institutions? Has it been successful since its inception or does it suffer from the classic non-profit management dilemma of being led by good intentions but achieving little as it tries to do everything? Have the institutions that should deliver human security been mainly successful or do they need major revisions?

These questions will not be answered in one issue, but we hope our twenty-second issue of PRAXIS will make a worthwhile contribution to the discussion. In this issue, Sabina Alkire discusses a definition of human security that focuses on a core mission of safeguarding human lives from critical and pervasive threats. Then Michael Gonzalez examines dilemmas for relief agencies delivering aid to HIV/AIDS patients in South Africa. Sara Feldman takes on alternatives to camps for long-term refugees and Jeremy Eggleton makes a critical review of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Finally, in Views from the Field, The Hon. Richard Goldstone talks about his experiences in international human rights law and prosecuting war crimes.

We hope that you enjoy these thought-provoking articles and are motivated to take part in the debate on how to deliver human security. We would like to extend special thanks to Professor Eileen Babbitt, who led the Fletcher Institute of Human Security this year, for her guidance and support. Finally, we also wish to thank our dedicated and hard-working staff of editors and marketers, who have spent countless hours working on this Fletcher institution.

**Zeba Khan**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

**Raya Widenoja**  
*Editor-in-Chief*