

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

November 29, 2010

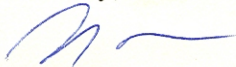
To Whom It May Concern:

The "Global Early Warning System (GEWS)" proposed by the Global Systems Analysis and Simulation Association in the U.S.A. (GLOSAS/USA) is excellent. In particular its focus on a paradigm shift on the application of international political relations/science with the use of "*normative* (role-playing)" and "*quantitative* (*model-based*)" gaming/simulation is an advanced approach that sets a new and high standard. It will interconnect experts in various countries via the global Internet so that they can collaborate in crisis prevention and develop solutions to mitigate and adapt to existing and/or forthcoming crises throughout the world, such as the deteriorating environment and social and economic stresses. It also permits the exploration of new alternatives for an integrated and functioning structure that is capable of addressing the problems and opportunities of an interdependent globe. This model will assist decision makers construct a globally distributed decision-support system for win-win, or at least acceptable and viable, alternatives to conflict and war, and effectively train would-be decision makers in crisis management, conflict prevention and resolution, and negotiation techniques based on "*facts and figures*," focusing on the issues of environment and sustainable development in developing countries.

This approach addresses the interplay of social, economic and political drivers in complex investment and strategic decision-making by government and industry, while also taking into account the direct and indirect, or the law of unintended consequences, that can be brought to bear by opposition groups, multilaterals, NGOs, media and local communities. Use of such simulations permits players – whether from government, business, NGO, community or media backgrounds - understand how the other stakeholders feel, think and operate and to develop better strategies than previously for reaching mutually satisfactory outcomes. Such quantitative approach may also over time change adversaries into collaborators, using rational analysis and critical thinking based on "facts and figures."

We are privileged to participate in this exciting and challenging GEWS project.

Sincerely,



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