

While nothing concrete has yet materialized in the way of alleviating the issue of light weapons proliferation, some useful statistical analysis, regional studies and conceptual frameworks have been developed. As well, some operational applications have occurred that show some promise in addressing the problem of light weapons proliferation.

Efforts to examine the issue of destabilizing light weapons proliferation within the UN have begun in several areas.² UN Resolution 49/75M addresses illicit arms trafficking and Annex I of UN Document A/51/42 provides "Guidelines for International Arms Transfers ." The guidelines acknowledge a state's inherent right to self-defence and the right to acquire arms for security, thus they focus primarily on illicit arms trafficking.

As well, the "Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms" was formed on the basis of UNGA Resolution 50/70B on Small Arms. The panel is to prepare a report on behalf of the UN Secretary-General, paying particular attention to the role of the UN and the complementary role of regional organizations, covering the following areas:

- the type of small arms and light weapons actually being used in conflicts being dealt with by the UN;
- the nature and causes of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons, including their illicit production and trade; and
- the ways and means to prevent and reduce the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons, in particular as they cause or exacerbate conflict.

These proliferation and disarmament dimensions of light weapons come within the purview of the Non-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Within a different context, the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna is also studying the impact of small arms³, primarily within the framework of criminal activities, accidents and suicides, illicit firearms trafficking, and domestic, regional and interregional firearms regulations. A survey of 50 countries is being conducted in an attempt to obtain useful statistics that might contribute towards aiding states in reducing firearms casualties and crime. In a similar vein the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission is looking at ways to control illegal trafficking of arms and explosives related to drug trafficking. Canada is represented on both of these processes by officials from the

² See UN General Assembly. *Measures to Curb the Illicit Transfer and Use of Conventional Arms*. UN Resolution 49/75M, December 15, 1994 and UN General Assembly. *Report of the Disarmament Commission*. UN General Assembly Document A/51/42, 1996

³ See United Nations. *UN Survey on Firearm Regulation: Guidelines and Questionnaire*. May 1996