

combatants into society, and women's issues.

A Canadian proposal to include in settlement agreements the post-conflict demobilisation of forces and capturing of small arms by UN peacekeepers was accepted and included in the recommendations of the UN Panel of Experts on Small Arms (see below).

DFAIT will be playing an active role to have the concluding document of the UN Panel of Experts on Small Arms endorsed and the recommendations implemented. Canada also supports the UNGA item "Consolidation of Peace through Practical Disarmament Measures" and the UN Disarmament Commission discussions on illicit transfers of conventional weapons as starting points for generating international consensus on small arms.

DFAIT has also been an active participant and supporter in the negotiations on the OAS Inter-American Convention (see below).

DND has supported Canada's participation on the UN Panel of Experts on Small Arms, and supports in particular the proposal to include the supervision of demobilisation and disarmament in peacekeeping activities. In addition, DND has participated in international efforts considering the possibility of reducing the use of inhumane weapons and ammunition in combat situations in order to avoid unnecessary injuries. Progress in these efforts is hampered by a lack of information on the necessity of such weapons and ammunition in combat and by the widespread use of these weapons.

The Department of Justice is preparing a policy think-piece on the issue of small arms and has participated in the work of the International Commission on Crime and Criminal Justice.

2. Germany

The German government has unsuccessfully sought the inclusion of a human rights dimension into the process since those killed by small arms include civilians killed by government forces.

3. Costa Rica

Former Costa Rican president Arias is promoting a code of conduct on small arms which may at some point in the future be tabled in the UN.

B. Regional Initiatives

4. OAS Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials. The Convention does not address small arms as a disarmament issue but as a law-enforcement and supply issue. Separating out the issue is argued to have been a facilitating factor in reaching consensus.

5. Northern Ireland Peace Process

Part of the negotiations of the peace process focus on the decommissioning of armed groups active in the conflict.

6. Other initiatives have also been pursued in Southern Africa and Central Africa.

C. Global Initiatives

6. OECD Development Assistance Committee

The DAC is concerned at a very basic level with conflict and its impact on peaceful development. It is in the process of developing guidelines that promote peaceful development and peace-building, such as the influence of military expenditures.