

disposal of surplus stocks or unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons.

16. Upon request, States and appropriate international or regional organizations in a position to do so should provide assistance to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons linked to drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism.

17. Particularly in post-conflict situations and where appropriate, the relevant regional and international organizations should support, within existing resources, appropriate post-conflict programmes related to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants.

18. With regard to those situations, States should, as appropriate, make greater efforts to address problems related to human and sustainable development, taking into account existing and future social and developmental activities and should fully respect the rights of the States concerned to establish priorities in their development programmes.

19. States, regional and subregional and international organizations, research centres, health and medical institutions, the United Nations system, international financial institutions and civil society are urged, as appropriate, to develop and support action-oriented research aimed at facilitating greater awareness and better understanding of the nature and scope of the problems associated with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

IV. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

1. We, the States participating in the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, recommend to the General Assembly the following agreed steps to be undertaken for the effective follow-up of the Conference:

(a) To convene a Conference no later than 2006 to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, the date and venue to be decided at the 58th session of the General Assembly;

(b) To convene a meeting of States on a biennial basis to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action;

(c) To undertake a United Nations study, within existing resources, for examining the feasibility of developing an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace in a timely and reliable manner illicit small arms and light weapons;

(d) To consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons.

2. Finally, we, the States participating in the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: