

## CHAPTER IV THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

**Objective:** To provide an overview of the resources that the various departments and agencies of the government of Canada have allocated to support major global, regional and sub-regional SALW-related commitments and programmes.

### Introduction

The goal of this chapter is to develop a more comprehensive picture of the scope and scale of the government of Canada's SALW-related programming and resource allocation. It will attempt to address the following questions: What are the various departments and agencies of the government of Canada doing to help address the global SALW problem? What sorts of contributions (financial and other) can these departments and agencies make to existing multilateral efforts to address the SALW problem? And, what sorts of resources to these departments and agencies possess that *might* be brought to bear to support these efforts in the future.

### Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

#### *Programming and General Types of Resources*

The principal institutional mechanism within CIDA for addressing the light weapons issue is the *Canadian Peacebuilding Fund*.<sup>28</sup> The mandate of the Fund is to finance emergency conflict prevention and post-conflict peacebuilding activities in countries entering, experiencing or emerging from conflict. It is designed to complement CIDA's existing (geographic) peacebuilding programmes by providing a rapid response mechanism capable of addressing urgent needs that cannot be met through other Canadian programming mechanisms. The Fund typically supports more risky, urgent, and innovative peacebuilding projects, while other CIDA programmes support long-term activities that contribute to peacebuilding in war-torn societies. The goal of the fund is to promote and support activities that contribute to conflict resolution, intra-societal reconciliation and/or the capacitation of local institutions that can contribute to sustainable social peace. Peacebuilding Fund grants are intended to fund short-term activities and cannot be used to cover any of a partner organization's regular operating expenditures. Eligible partner organizations include NGOs, Non-governmental institutions, United Nations agencies or other national, regional or international organizations. The Fund has at its disposal CDN\$10 million (approximately US\$6.5 million) per year and is financed out of Canada's ODA budget.

The functional foci of the Fund include the following range of activities: small arms and light weapons control, gender initiatives in the context of peacebuilding, war affected children, emergency civilian response, support to multilateral and regional peacebuilding initiatives, demobilization and reintegration of combatants, support to free media and communications, civil society partnerships, and

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<sup>28</sup>The Peacebuilding Fund, established in 1997, is one of the key elements of the *Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative*, a joint initiative of DFAIT and CIDA created to "assist countries in conflict in their efforts towards peace and stability, and to promote Canadian peacebuilding capacity and Canadian participation in international peacebuilding initiatives".