

To make norm-building more viable, greater resources need to be allocated towards capacity-building. Such capacity-building would include; training in the proper use of small arms, having such training made mandatory for recipients of imported small arms and made a criterion for the approval of exports and for police forces and other law enforcement capacities in order to fight corruption among police; training in the creation of legislation on small arms; and in developing infrastructure to implement the norms.

Development

A Canadian initiative to deal with the small arms issue could include a strong development component. A development component fulfils the need to build capacity in the most vulnerable areas in order to strengthen the effectiveness of any responses to the problem of small arms. It also targets all actors involved (state, non-state) and their motivations (political, economic, criminal). A development component is particularly appealing because it is applicable not just to post-conflict conditions but also to non-conflict situations. It directly targets the necessary capacity-building of citizens, civil societies, states and of state-citizen relations. Development also highlights the importance of having the right mentality and admitting that small arms is a problem impinging on civil society development. It also serves as a starting point through which human security can be more directly linked to specific strategies and tactics. By strengthening civil society, small arms as an issue is dealt with as an intended consequence. Likewise, lessons from the broader development experience can be learned, specifically concerning the desired response to accusations of violating the principle of state sovereignty.

A development component could also introduce leverage to the issue by establishing criteria for receipt of development aid. Participants insisted however that, development aid should not be used as a weapon but as a system of checks and balances to encourage desired behaviour and outcomes. In certain regions of concern, developmental components of initiatives is already accepted, although such acceptance does vary in degree and among groups within society. Such support however, is significantly present in areas where the presence of small arms undermines traditional patterns of power and authority.

By including a development component, the critical economic dimension of the small arms issue is also given a higher profile. In certain areas, weak economic development accelerates the social and political instability that is associated with the problem of small arms. At the same time, areas destabilised by the consequences of small arms do not present the proper conditions for long-term economic activity and the attraction of foreign economic interests. Progress in economic development for one area can spread across borders and influence regional economic development.

Additional Considerations

A Canadian initiative could consider re-categorising countries with a role in small arms not as suppliers or consumers but as source countries (not necessarily producers or manufacturers of small arms alone), transit countries and end-use countries. In this way, policies could more