

par l'appui à la société civile, à l'éducation à la démocratie et à l'implication des femmes et des jeunes dans tout ce qui vise la paix et le développement, et l'imputabilité des dirigeants.

Rapporteur: Kadari Mweme-Kabyana, McGill University

SESSION 6.2: Controlling Small Arms in Africa

Lynne Griffiths-Fulton, of Project Ploughshares, stated that the extraordinary suffering in the Greater Horn of Africa was the result of interrelated civil and inter-state wars that have lasted for decades. The large number of small arms and light weapons in the region have exacerbated the suffering. Porous and expansive borders, weak governments and under-resourced national security systems have made small arms difficult to control and account for. They have found their way beyond armies and security forces to criminal organizations, private security forces, vigilante squads and individual citizens. An estimated 100 million small arms are thought to be in circulation within Africa alone. Project Ploughshares, along with the Africa Peace Forum (APFO), assisted in the drafting of the Nairobi Declaration, which was signed by governments in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa regions. It reflects the signatories' political will to address the illicit proliferation of small arms in the two regions. An effective response to the small arms problem will require regional cooperation and an increased commitment by the international community.

Denis Chouinard, of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, noted in his presentation that the proliferation of small arms has been gaining momentum and that discussions on the subject are important between groups involved in the field. According to a Safer World report, 2 million children have been killed by small arms and 6 million affected over the last decade. Such numbers have been challenged by some, but it is important to take action rather than debate statistics. He noted that many countries in Africa are making progress in addressing the small arms problem, among them Mali and other nations in the Horn of Africa, East Africa, and South Africa. Chouinard concluded by saying that departments within government must integrate their efforts to find and identify needs and to create partnerships within Canada and internationally.

Ibrahima Sall, Director of the Program for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development in Africa (PCASED), noted that 90% of conflicts in Africa use small and light weapons. To deal effectively with that a moratorium has been agreed on the importation and production of small arms in West Africa. Under the moratorium, 15 nations have also made a commitment to share information on stocks, both public and private, and to address the leakage of small arms across borders. Sall noted that the moratorium is a legal tool that gives nations and organizations such as PECASD, legitimacy in carrying out this work. The difficulty with many NGOs is that they do not have such a mandate, and cannot implement programs in the field. Sall indicated that while it is has been important to establish the moratorium and take practical measures to destroy stockpiles, and set up a registry, other initiatives such as distribute information to civil society, harmonizing and modernizing legislation among states, and entering a dialogue with gun manufacturers have also been beneficial. In education, one goal has been the promotion of a culture of peace within states. This has involved providing input for school