

- establish and maintain effective export and import licenses;
- define which weapons are for military use only;
- ensure adequate numbers of customs officials;
- ensure exported arms have an import certificate from the receiving state; and
- take into account INTERPOL recommendations.

At the international level:

- regulate private arms dealers;
- comply strictly with UN embargoes;
- cooperate with other states to combat illegal arms trafficking;
- require some form of end-user certificates for international arms transfers;
- develop and enhance the application of compatible legislative and administrative standards; and
- report all relevant transactions to the UN Registry of Conventional Arms.

The important issue is a logical division of effort and focus of resources. While there is a connectivity between international and national level actions, the UN Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, for example, should focus on the international actions to be taken. The national aspects of controlling and enforcing light weapons regulations might lie more in the domain of, for example, the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. This in no way suggests that states, particularly less advanced states, should be left on their own in implementing national control measures. It is here that advanced states with good legislation and enforcement procedures could provide expertise, training and financial assistance to assist poorer states who have demonstrated the requirement and desire to bring destabilizing light weapons under tighter control. This is an area that should be further studied.

Embargoes: A Two Edged Sword

As noted earlier in reference to Pakistan, arms embargoes on states also encourage the diffusion of light weapons production which is unlikely to cease after the embargo is lifted. From this aspect embargoes should be employed with care. South Africa became a major manufacturer and exporter of arms when it was under UN embargo. The potential for embargoes to aid in light weapons proliferation is an issue worth examining even if it determines that the ends justifies the means, notwithstanding the impact on light weapons diffusion.⁷⁷

A Registry of Light Weapons

Transparency and education is an area that appears to have universal support in the literature, both official and unofficial. While its short term effectiveness is debatable, over

⁷⁷ Source: A former Canadian UN military officer stated that a Croatian munitions factory functioned for some time in an area closely controlled by the UN which was allegedly weapons free and under embargo.