

trafficking of arms — particularly firearms, small arms and light weapons — on and through their territories. The main parts of a programme to achieve this should be as follows.

1.1 Strengthening laws and regulations to combat illicit arms trafficking

A comprehensive programme to strengthen controls and regulations on legal possession and trade of arms must play a central role in combating illicit arms trafficking. This is discussed in section 2 below. Regulations need to be developed across the region to ensure that any unlicensed arms possession and trading are clearly illicit, and subject to appropriate punishment. Further, regional consultations could be established to develop effective extradition agreements among all SADC members.

1.2 Strengthening operational capacity to combat illicit trafficking

A range of agencies have a crucial role to play in enforcing regulations to combat illicit trafficking in light arms — including police, customs, border guards, the judiciary, and also the military. However, in most Southern African countries, several of these agencies lack critical capacity to fulfil their role. Moreover, interagency co-ordination within and among the countries needs improvement. At a national level, Southern African states should embark on programmes to strengthen the capacity of police and customs, including:

- Undertaking co-ordinated national training programmes for police, customs and border guards, the judiciary and other agencies involved in preventing or combating illicit arms trafficking. One objective of such programmes should be to strengthen the investigative capabilities of police and customs, and their familiarity with appropriate criminal procedure. This could be enhanced by increasing the analytical and training capacity within SARPCCO, which should be developed to allow appropriate participation of customs and border guards, as well as the police.
- Establishing and improving national databases, communication systems, and equipment for monitoring and controlling movements across borders, while ensuring computability of systems between agencies and across the region.
- Establishing interagency joint working groups, involving police, customs, home affairs, the judiciary and other relevant groups, to improve policy co-ordination, information sharing and analysis at national level.

At a regional level, SADC member states should embark on a concerted regional programme to strengthen the capacity of the police, customs authorities, border guards and the criminal justice system to combat illicit trafficking. Such programmes should build upon existing security co-operation agreements in Southern Africa, such as the ISDSC and SARPCCO. In this context, SADC countries should consider:

- Activating and sustaining information sharing and analyses functions, internationally and regionally. This will necessitate strengthening of lines of communication between the police and customs officials in different SADC countries; developing and utilising regional (SARPCCO/Interpol) and international databases (e.g. IWETS); developing regional aspects of intelligence information sharing on light and illicit arms; and in particular, developing dedicated training programmes on the use of intelligence;