

On the arms control track, the emphasis is on promoting measures designed to achieve greater restraint and transparency in legal transfers of small arms and light weapons. Aspects under review include codes of conduct, transparency and registry initiatives, and consciousness-raising activities in security-related bodies such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the OSCE and Wassenaar. Canada itself imposes strict controls on the export of firearms, particularly automatic weapons; these can be exported to only a small group of countries (currently 16) with which Canada has concluded intergovernmental defence, research, development and production agreements. These countries, which make up the Automatic Firearms Country Control List (AFCCL), are listed in Annex 1.

On the crime control track, the focus is on supporting measures to counter the illicit trade in small arms. In November 1997, Canada signed the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials. Canada also played a key role in negotiating the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, which supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. These conventions establish reciprocal regimes of import, export and transit authorizations for all cross-border movements of small arms and ammunition.

On the peacebuilding track, Canada supports a broad range of initiatives addressing the humanitarian, governance and practical disarmament aspects of the small arms issue, in cooperation with like-minded governments and non-governmental organizations.

Canada actively participated in the 2001 UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held July 9 to 20 in New York City. The Conference concluded with the adoption of a "Programme of Action" to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. It covers such matters as placing permanent markings on small arms and recording their manufacture and transfer; the criminalization of the illicit manufacture of, possession of and trade in small arms; the destruction of surplus stocks; and the disarming and reintegration of ex-combatants.

A longstanding policy objective for Canada is the non-proliferation, reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (i.e. chemical and biological weapons). Canada has played an active role in efforts to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. For example, Canada helped to secure the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and lobbied other countries to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Canada ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in September 1995 and established within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) a National Authority to serve as the focal point for effective